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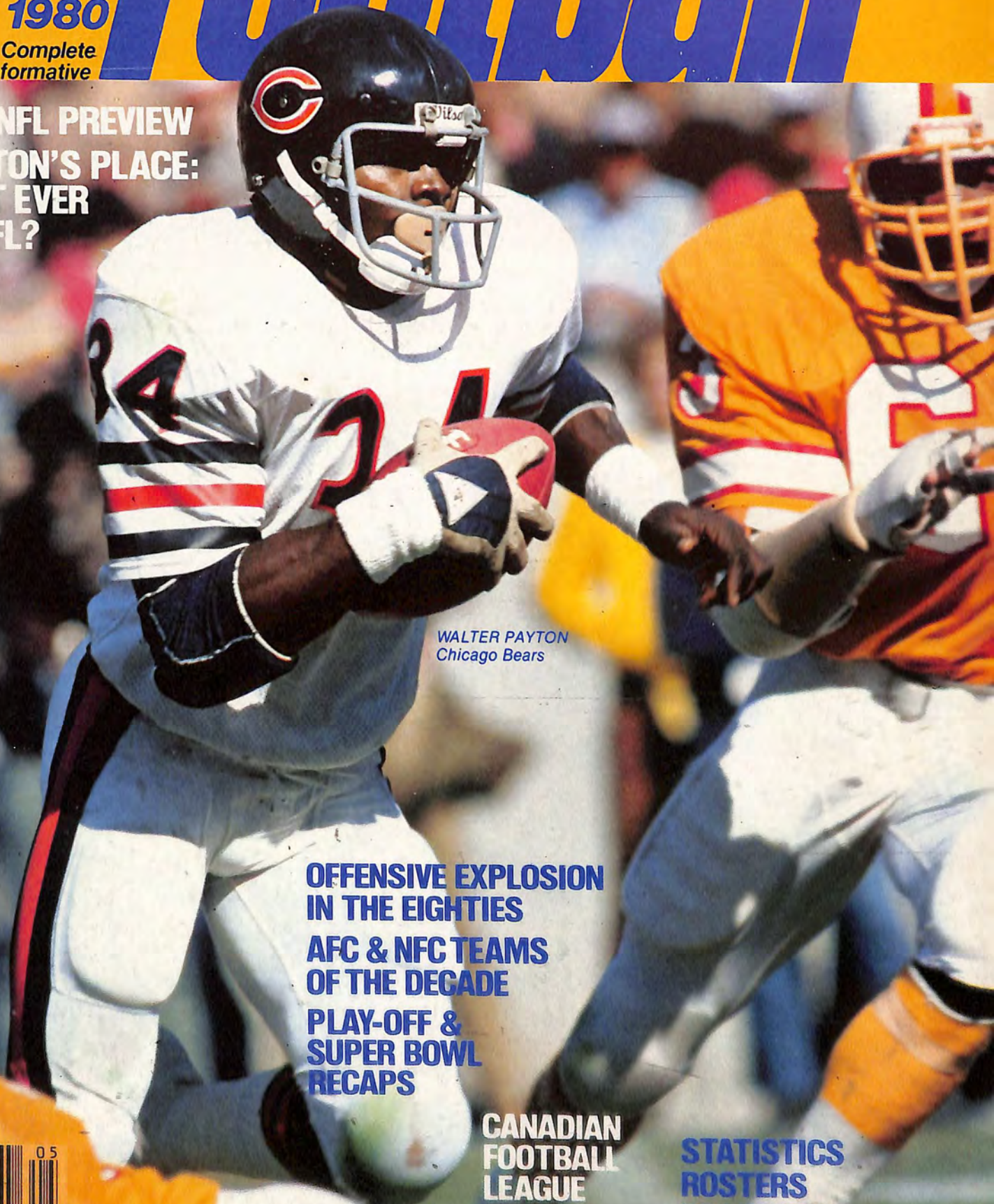
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PLAY-OFF &
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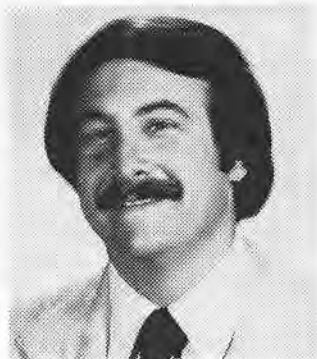
**CANADIAN
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If You haven't heard of DANNY SHERIDAN, you've been dead for five years!

The reason for all of Danny's National Publicity is his uncanny ability to accurately predict the outcomes of College & Pro Football games. From 1964 through 1979 Danny's winning percentage versus the points spread has averaged an incredible 70%+. This includes his fantastic **16 year Post Season record** (vs. spread) where he has correctly picked 85 of 112 College Bowl games (75%), 58 of 71 Pro Playoff games (81%), and 10 of 13 Super Bowl games.



Last year Danny again shocked the Football World, as his **documented** National Newsletter **incredibly** won 16 of 18 weekends versus the spread during the 1979 Football Season! Plus Danny's 1979 Newsletter averaged 70% versus the spread on **ALL** of his College & Pro picks during the regular season, and 66% versus the spread during the College Bowls & Pro Playoffs. How much **money** would **you** have made if you had joined Danny's 1979 Newsletter and won **every weekend** versus the spread in **September & October** (9 straight weekends), plus won 3 of 4 weekends in **November** (including 80% during Thanksgiving), and again won 3 of 4 weekends in **December** (copies of 1979 Newsletter available upon request).

In summary Danny **won 16 of 18 weekends** in 1979 versus the Las Vegas Spread and won **88.8%** of the time last season versus the spread (16 of 18 = 88.8%), which was obviously very **financially rewarding** to our clients! **No one** in the history of football handicapping has ever won 16 of 18 weekends and averaged 70% versus the spread during any football season, and **all** of Danny's **sensational 1979** results were **documented** in his weekly Newsletter. Incidentally, Danny's 1978 Newsletter won 15 of 18 weekends and averaged 76% versus the spread on all of his College & Pro picks during those winning 15 weekends.

Danny's 1980 Newsletter will consist of his opinion versus the Las Vegas Spread on his favorite 4-7 College & Pro games each weekend. **All** of Danny's Clients receive the **same** 4-7 College & Pro picks every Friday by Special Delivery mail, as Danny is the only one who is **honest** and **accurate** enough to put all his picks in print.

In case you missed it, Danny was again asked to be on **NBC's TOMORROW SHOW**, hosted by Tom Snyder, on Thursday Night **October 19, 1978**, where he was asked to pick his 5 top Pro games vs. spread for that weekend. He responded in front of a National TV audience by correctly predicting 4 of 5 (80% vs. spread). Danny also astonished a National TV audience with his points spread accuracy 4 years ago on **NBC's TOMORROW SHOW (Oct. 14, 1975)** by correctly picking 6 of 7 of his top picks (86%), plus 17 of 19 versus the spread that same weekend. Danny's point-

spread results were announced by Tom Snyder on October 20, 1975 & October 23, 1978, which was the Monday after each of Danny's successful National TV appearances.

During the 1977 Football Season, Danny was the **ONLY** Football Prognosticator to be **featured weekly** on Network TV. During the 1977 season, **NBC** used a robot named "Statz". **CBS** had Jimmy The Greek who analyzed games - not predict them, but **ABC's GOOD MORNING SHOW** hosted by David Hartman, had Danny on

every Friday predicting College & Pro football weekend games from October 7 - December 26, 1977. On the **ABC-TV SHOW** Danny averaged an unbelievable **66%** winning average and that was while picking mostly upsets (results announced on the air Dec. 26, 1977). Plus on the **ABC-TV National Show**, Danny picked **every Monday Night Pro game** correctly (vs. spread) and also predicted 7 winners out of 8 (vs. spread) during the **Big 1977 Thanksgiving Weekend games** for a National audience! Plus Danny's Newsletter was **75%** versus the spread during the **1978 Thanksgiving Weekend**, and **80%** versus the spread during last season's big **1979 Thanksgiving Weekend!**

Space does not permit the listing of every National TV & Radio Show or every major Newspaper & Magazine article that featured **Danny's accuracy** in 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, & 1980, but if you would like them please call or write our office. Besides **ABC & NBC-TV**, some are: Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Esquire Magazine, Football News, Sports Illustrated, Pro Football Weekly, Penthouse, Playboy, etc.

Danny's **sensational 70%** accuracy versus the spread was featured in the December 1979 Issue of **PLAYBOY MAGAZINE** (page 235, "Betting the NFL").

There was a thorough objective research done on the fraudulent practices of many football touts entitled "**Tips on Touts**" which appeared in **ESQUIRE MAGAZINE**. The article points out that "**unlike Danny Sheridan**, some (touts) appear to be either flat-out crooks, slightly shady types, or terrible liars." For a copy of this objective article "Tips on Touts", write or call our office. It could save you money, as the author suggests.

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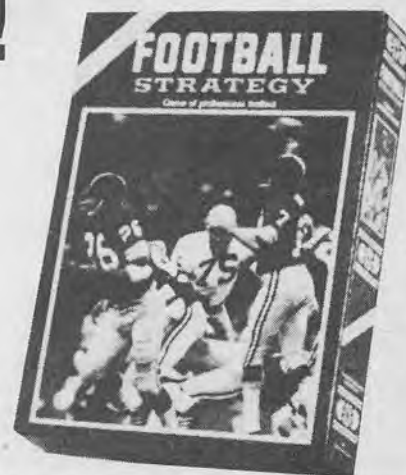
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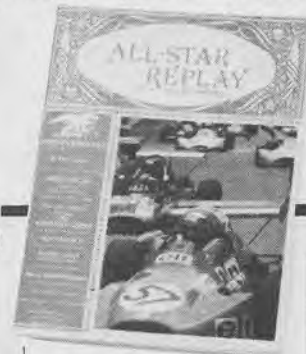
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Terry Bradshaw throwing long ...
Franco Harris blasting off tackle ...

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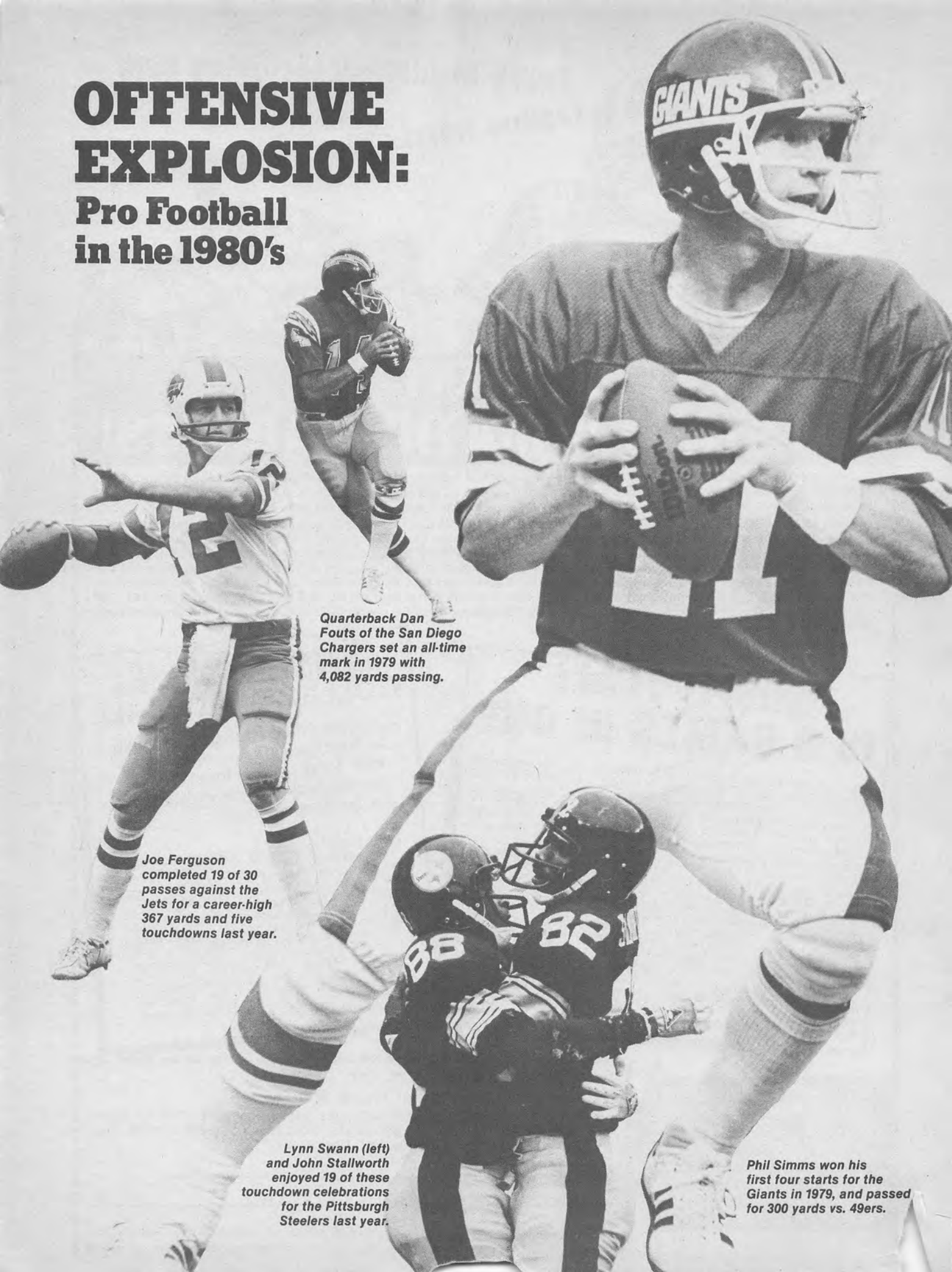
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OFFENSIVE EXPLOSION:

Pro Football in the 1980's



Quarterback Dan Fouts of the San Diego Chargers set an all-time mark in 1979 with 4,082 yards passing.

Joe Ferguson completed 19 of 30 passes against the Jets for a career-high 367 yards and five touchdowns last year.

Lynn Swann (left) and John Stallworth enjoyed 19 of these touchdown celebrations for the Pittsburgh Steelers last year.

Phil Simms won his first four starts for the Giants in 1979, and passed for 300 yards vs. 49ers.

by LARRY FELSER

The New York Jets felt reasonably safe. Why not? They were leading the Buffalo Bills, 24-12, and their defense had the Bills pinned back on their own 25-yard line, third down and 22 yards to go for a first down. Just seven seconds remained until halftime.

But this was 1979, the beginning of the "now" football, the era of the new offense, where no lead is safe at any place, at any time. Joe Ferguson, the Bills' quarterback, cranked up and fired far down the right sideline in the general direction of, well, anybody. The ball bounced off a gaggle of leapers. Jerry Butler, the Buffalo rookie, snatched the rebound and ran into the end zone for a touchdown.

A couple of seasons ago, Butler would have been picking himself off the ground in the vicinity of the Bills' 35 when that ball landed. He would have had his feet cut out from under him; upon arising he would have been knocked off stride by a cornerback, then leveled by a linebacker or a safety man. In those days, a wide receiver entered the secondary with the sort of caution a person exercises when taking a midnight subway ride in Manhattan.

Now it's safe-passage time for pass catchers. Butler went on to ruin the Jets, catching ten passes for 255 yards and four touchdowns as Buffalo came back in the second half to win, 46-31.

Things like that aren't so rare in the National Football League these days. In fact they are becoming more common.

When Atlanta plays New Orleans, spectacular offense and wild endings are virtually expected. Both of their 1978 meetings ended with the Falcons winning at the last second on "Hail Mary" passes. When they opened the season at New Orleans last year, Steve Bartkowski passed for 312 yards and three touchdowns, but that wasn't all. Rookie William Andrews ran for 167 yards more and the Falcons won, 40-34, in overtime.

Craig Morton went into Denver's September 23 game against Seattle as the Broncos' backup quarterback. They needed him in the second half. He responded by throwing

three touchdown passes in two-and-a-half minutes to give Denver a 37-34 victory.

Even the rookies were doing it. Phil Simms, the New York Giants' first-round draft choice, was virtually welded to the bench for the first part of the season, but by October he not only was starting but accumulating yardage and points by the barrel. Simms completed 17 of 32 passes against San Francisco for 300 yards. Two of his passes went to Earnest Gray, his rookie receiver, for 11- and 13-yard touchdowns in a 32-16 victory.

What's happening? Wasn't it just the day before yesterday that the formula for victory in the NFL was ball control, sit on it, wait for the other guys to make a mistake and deeeeeeeefense?

What's happened is that the rules have been changed. Not only do the wide receivers have protection from muggers in the secondary, but there no longer is open season on quarterbacks. Besides, the offensive linemen, who protect the passers and give them time to locate an open receiver, have been given a license to do a little mugging themselves.

In 1979, there was an average of 40 points scored in a game. That's an increase of 9.4 percent over 1978 and a 17 percent increase over 1977.

There were 104 more touchdowns scored in 1979 than there were in 1978.

There were 67 more touchdown passes scored in 1979 than in the season before.

There were 37 more rushing touchdowns scored in 1979 than in 1978.

What happened was that the rest of the NFL discovered how to use the new rules. The Pittsburgh Steelers taught them how in Super Bowl XIII, when they beat Dallas, 34-31. Terry Bradshaw decided to forego the sparring in that one. In the second quarter, on third down, he sent John Stallworth on a curl pattern to his right. Receivers like Stallworth don't have to worry much about coming off the line of scrimmage anymore. All he had to do was elude Aaron Kyle, the Cowboy cornerback.

Elude him Stallworth did. That got the Steelers ten yards and a first down. Then he eluded the rest of the Dallas defense for 65 additional yards and a touchdown. Later in the quarter, Pittsburgh had another third down, this time with only a yard to go at the Dallas seven. Bradshaw rolled right, looped a pass beyond the reach of linebacker D.D. Lewis. Rocky Bleier leaped to catch it and Pittsburgh had another touchdown.

Even when they were up by 28-17 in the last quarter, the Steelers still threw the ball. Bradshaw play-faked to Franco Harris on first down from the Dallas 18, then threw a touchdown pass to Lynn Swann. It was a good thing, too, since Dallas also took advantage of the NFL's new era and rallied to close it, 35-31, as Roger Staubach threw touchdown passes to Billy Joe Dupree and Butch Johnson.

Bradshaw, for the first time in his career, had thrown for 300 yards in a game. His 253 yards in the first half broke the Super Bowl record for a full game.

In 1979, 300-yard games were commonplace. No fewer than 11 passers exceeded 3,000 yards for the season. Dan Fouts of San Diego set the all-time record with 4,082 yards.

The idea was that passers were throwing downfield again, none of the little dinky stuff to running backs in order to get back to the line of scrimmage or avoid the possibility of something bad happening. Of the top ten pass receivers in the league, only two, Joe Washington of Baltimore and Rickey Young of Minnesota, were backs. The emphasis was not only on quarterbacks who could crank up and throw, but



Seattle quarterback Jim Zorn passed for 3,661 yards and 20 touchdowns last season, his best ever.

offensive explosion

on receivers who could run the fly patterns and "ups," and run away from single coverage.

There is a whole new generation of top receivers in the NFL as a result. In the 1978 draft, three of the first 14 players selected were wide receivers. New Orleans picked Wes Chandler of Florida, Green Bay took James Lofton of Stanford, and San Diego selected John Jefferson of Arizona State. By last January, all three had been selected for the Pro Bowl. Jefferson made it two seasons in a row.

The inclusion of Chandler into the New Orleans starting lineup last year virtually made the Saints a contender. The offense had boasted good runners, Chuck Muncie and Tony Galbreath, for years. It had one of the best quarterbacks, Archie Manning, who was voted the player of the year in the National Conference in 1978. But, after losing their first three games last season, the Saints vaulted into first place. Chandler had given Manning the deep target he lacked for so long.



Richard Todd triggers a devastating passing attack for the Jets, while Steve Largent steered his way to nine touchdowns and an 18.7-yard average on 66 catches for the Seahawks. Terry Bradshaw passed for 309 yards in his finest Super Bowl.

New Orleans was tied for first place with Los Angeles in the NFC West as late as the thirteenth week of the season. When the Rams finally did pull away on their route to the Super Bowl, the Saints gave them something to think about for 1980 when they punted them, 29-14, in the final game they would ever play in Memorial Coliseum.

Jefferson was such a spectacular hit for the Chargers as a rookie that he opened up other offensive avenues which eventually led to the team's first divisional championship since 1965. He caught 56 passes for 1,001 yards as a rookie, with 13 receptions going for touchdowns.

San Diego coach Don Coryell correctly anticipated that Jefferson would be showered with multiple coverages, so he put more emphasis on 32-year-old Charlie Joiner. Joiner had some great seasons in Houston and Cincinnati, but he never got as much action as he did last year when Dan Fouts and the other Charger quarterbacks connected with him 72 times for 1,008 yards. Jefferson, meanwhile, caught even more passes than he did in his first year, 61. He, too, went over 1,000 yards in receptions.

But no team doubles its pleasure with the long ball quite like the Steelers. With linebackers no longer allowed to whip the legs from under wide receivers as they attempted to get off the line of scrimmage; with defensive backs no longer allowed to bounce the receiver from one man to the next if the erstwhile pass catcher was lucky enough to get past the line of scrimmage; with open season on quarterbacks ended by the NFL's new quick whistle; with the pass blockers allowed to extend their arms to ward off the pass rushers—and even to squeeze a little jersey—the Steelers played the new offense.

In 1978, for instance, Pittsburgh passed for more yardage than it rushed for. Swann caught 61 balls for 880 yards. Stallworth caught 41 passes for 798 yards. Between them, they caught 20 touchdown passes, 11 for Lynn and 9 for John.

In 1979, Swann was injured for several games. The Steelers, however, did not stop their new style of attack. Stallworth was virtually unstoppable, catching 70 passes for an average of 17 yards a catch. Swann, when he was in the lineup, gave defensive backs an extra case of shudders, catching 41 balls for a 19.7-yard average.

Bradshaw, incidentally, makes a point of getting the ball to both receivers. There is no such thing as a "favorite" receiver with him. In the 1978 Super Bowl vs. Dallas, the first touchdown pass to Stallworth, a 28-yarder, was a play suggested by Swann in practice. Bradshaw called it early in the game, but to Stallworth's side.

The rules changes have had a by-product, also. They are saving wear and tear on some of the game's more venerable receivers. With the secondary no longer a football no man's land, the life expectancy of a pass catcher's career has lengthened.

Harold Jackson is 34. He is entering his thirteenth season, after distinguished hitches in Philadelphia and Los Angeles. He is still a large part of the New England offense. Early last season the Patriots bounced back from an overtime loss to the Steelers by incinerating the New York Jets, 56-3. Quarterback Steve Grogan threw for 315 yards and five touchdowns, three of them to Jackson.

"I don't see any reason why I couldn't play a few more seasons," said the revitalized Jackson. He finished the 1979 season with 45 catches for 1,013 yards, a spectacular 22.5-yard average, and no one mentioned the word retirement.

Frank Lewis is 33. Once a No. 1 draft choice of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Lewis's career with the champs was cursed by almost-yearly injuries. Traded to Buffalo, Lewis was re-

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<input type="checkbox"/> 100	\$175.00	(\$1.75)	<input type="checkbox"/> 100	\$325.00	(\$3.25)	<input type="checkbox"/> 100	\$400.00	(\$100.00)
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offensive explosion

juvenated by the new rules. In 1978 he caught 41 passes for 735 yards in an injury-free year. Last season he was even deadlier, catching 54 passes for his first 1,000-yard season and a 20-yard per-catch average. Not running the gauntlet among the Jack Tatum and Emmitt Thomases had increased his longevity.

But Jackson and Lewis are more curiosities than typical elements of the new offense. The figures most likely to be seen flashing across your television screen in the next few years are typified by two of the NFL's younger stars, Wesley Walker of the New York Jets and Steve Largent of the Seattle Seahawks.

After Walker had played his first exhibition game in 1977, coach Walt Michaels quickly made a move to completely change his offense. He switched tight end Richard Caster to wide receiver and Jerome Barkum to tight end, with Walker installed as the split end. The idea was to threaten the opposing defenses with Walker. He runs the 40-yard dash in 4.35, which makes him one of the two or three fastest men in football. In college, at the University of California, he set an NCAA record with an average gain of 25.7 yards on each of his catches throughout his career.

Who could afford to single cover him?

With double coverage forced upon the defense on Walker's side of the field, the other side of the field, the strong side, was opened up for the Jets' running game and also for the passing game, since Caster or Barkum, or both, would be single-covered. That first season, Walker had touchdown catches of 77, 75, 56, 48, 47, 43, 38, and 33 yards.

But the new rules which produced the new offense were not meant strictly to free the burners like Walker. At the opposite end of the spectrum is Steve Largent of Seattle, Jim Zorn's favorite target since the birth of the franchise. In four NFL seasons, Largent has 224 receptions. Last year his per-catch average, 18.7, was the highest among the league's top ten receivers. The man in second place, Stallworth, trailed Largent by almost two full yards and the Steeler caught only four more passes, 70 to 66.

What's notable about that is that if Stallworth and Largent were to have a foot race on a football field, Stallworth would leave Steve far upfield. A foot race with Wesley Walker would be embarrassing for the Seahawk. They call Largent a tortoise succeeding in a new game for the hares.

"Am I a burner?" laughs Largent. "It depends upon who's chasing me."

Before last year, Largent was known as a possession receiver. The inevitable comparison was to Fred Biletnikoff, the retired Oakland Raider to whom Ken Stabler threw so often when he desperately needed a first down.

But Jerry Rhone, the Seahawks' quarterback coach, was among those NFL offensive strategists who continued to discover new things about the new rules in 1979. One of the things he discovered was that receivers who run precise, disciplined pass patterns benefited as much from not being knocked around the secondary as the speed burners did. Largent's ability to get open, to fool defensive backs, made him as much of a deep threat as the Stallworths and Swanns.

"Straight-ahead speed is overrated," says Largent. "The things I emphasize are catching the football and running disciplined routes. I wouldn't mind being faster, but there are other things just as important as speed. Like football sense: you can't have any dummies out there."

"A lot of guys can run 4.4 or 4.5, but do they have sense? Will they hustle, do the things necessary to help the team?"

Seattle, for the second consecutive season, made a strong pass at the play-offs, but missed. Yet, as Zorn and Largent con-

tinued to discover new avenues in the new offense, they were the league's ultimate spoiler. Midway through the season, they stunned Houston, 34-14, in a game which may have cost the Oilers the Central Division championship of the AFC. The killer plays were two long touchdown passes from Zorn to Largent.

On the first one, Largent immediately recognized that the Oiler secondary had blown the intended coverage. He quickly slipped behind the safety and corner, then Zorn found him for the score. The second touchdown came on a third-and-12 situation. Houston was thinking of the old offense. Seattle was thinking of the new. Largent ran a deep pattern, Zorn connected with him, and the Oilers were hopelessly behind.

Then, in mid November, with New Orleans holding a one-game lead over Los Angeles in the NFC West, Zorn decimated the Saints' secondary, passing for 384 yards, his personal high, and four touchdowns. Nine of his passes went to Largent for 146 yards and two more touchdowns.

Will the new offense continue to entertain NFL fans? Will the defenses catch up quickly? The answer may have come from a college scout for an NFL team last spring.

"Thank God it's a great year for defensive backs in this draft," he said. "We're going to be needing all the good ones we can get from now on."



John Stallworth's 73-yard touchdown clinched Super Bowl for Pittsburgh in 1980; Wesley Walker's blinding speed will be matched by Lam Jones's this season for Jets; Wes Chandler gave the Saints their first deep threat.

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1980

National Football League Schedule

Sunday, September 7
Atlanta at Minnesota
Baltimore at New York Jets
Chicago at Green Bay
Cleveland at New England
Denver at Philadelphia
Detroit at Los Angeles
Houston at Pittsburgh
Miami at Buffalo
New York Giants at St. Louis
Oakland at Kansas City
San Diego at Seattle
San Francisco at New Orleans
Tampa Bay at Cincinnati
Monday, September 8
Dallas at Washington (N)
Thursday, September 11
Los Angeles at Tampa Bay (N)
Sunday, September 14
Atlanta at New England
Cincinnati at Miami
Dallas at Denver
Detroit vs. Green Bay at Milw.
New Orleans at Chicago
New York Jets at Buffalo
Oakland at San Diego
Philadelphia at Minnesota
Pittsburgh at Baltimore
St. Louis at San Francisco
Seattle at Kansas City
Washington at New York Giants
Monday, September 15
Houston at Cleveland (N)
Sunday, September 21
Baltimore at Houston
Buffalo at New Orleans
Green Bay at Los Angeles
Kansas City at Cleveland
Miami at Atlanta
Minnesota at Chicago
New England at Seattle
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
St. Louis at Detroit
San Diego at Denver
San Francisco at New York Jets
Tampa Bay at Dallas
Washington at Oakland
Monday, September 22
New York Giants at Philadelphia (N)
Sunday, September 28
Atlanta at San Francisco
Chicago at Pittsburgh
Cleveland at Tampa Bay
Dallas vs. Green Bay at Milw.
Houston at Cincinnati
Los Angeles at New York Giants
Minnesota at Detroit
New Orleans at Miami
New York Jets at Baltimore
Oakland at Buffalo
Philadelphia at St. Louis
San Diego at Kansas City
Seattle at Washington
Monday, September 29
Denver at New England (N)
Sunday, October 5
Baltimore at Miami
Buffalo at San Diego
Cincinnati at Green Bay
Denver at Cleveland
Detroit at Atlanta
Kansas City at Oakland
New England at New York Jets
New York Giants at Dallas
Pittsburgh at Minnesota
St. Louis at New Orleans
San Francisco at Los Angeles
Seattle at Houston
Washington at Philadelphia
Monday, October 6
Tampa Bay at Chicago (N)
Sunday, October 12
Baltimore at Buffalo
Chicago at Minnesota
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Cleveland at Seattle
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
Houston at Kansas City
Los Angeles at St. Louis
Miami at New England
New Orleans at Detroit
New York Jets at Atlanta
Philadelphia at New York Giants

San Diego at Oakland
San Francisco at Dallas
Monday, October 13
Washington at Denver (N)
Sunday, October 19
Atlanta at New Orleans
Buffalo at Miami
Dallas at Philadelphia
Detroit at Chicago
Green Bay at Cleveland
Kansas City at Denver
Los Angeles at San Francisco
Minnesota at Cincinnati
New England at Baltimore
New York Giants at San Diego
St. Louis at Washington
Seattle at New York Jets
Tampa Bay at Houston
Monday, October 20
Oakland at Pittsburgh (N)
Sunday, October 26
Chicago at Philadelphia
Cincinnati at Houston
Denver at New York Giants
Detroit at Kansas City
Los Angeles at Atlanta
Minnesota at Green Bay
New England at Buffalo
New Orleans at Washington
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
St. Louis at Baltimore
San Diego at Dallas (N)
Seattle at Oakland
Tampa Bay at San Francisco
Monday, October 27
Miami at New York Jets (N)
Sunday, November 2
Atlanta at Buffalo
Baltimore at Kansas City
Dallas at St. Louis
Green Bay at Pittsburgh
Houston at Denver
Miami at Oakland
Minnesota at Washington
New Orleans at Los Angeles
New York Giants at Tampa Bay
New York Jets at New England
Philadelphia at Seattle
San Diego at Cincinnati
San Francisco at Detroit
Monday, November 3
Chicago at Cleveland (N)
Sunday, November 9
Atlanta at St. Louis
Buffalo at New York Jets
Cincinnati at Oakland
Cleveland at Baltimore
Dallas at New York Giants
Denver at San Diego
Detroit at Minnesota
Kansas City at Seattle
Miami at Los Angeles
Philadelphia at New Orleans
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay
San Francisco vs. Green Bay at Milw.
Washington at Chicago
Monday, November 10
New England at Houston (N)
Sunday, November 16
Baltimore at Detroit
Buffalo at Cincinnati
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Green Bay at New York Giants
Houston at Chicago
Kansas City at San Diego
Los Angeles at New England
New Orleans at Atlanta
New York Jets at Denver
Philadelphia at Washington
St. Louis at Dallas
San Francisco at Miami
Tampa Bay at Minnesota
Monday, November 17
Oakland at Seattle (N)
Thursday, November 20
San Diego at Miami (N)
Sunday, November 23
Baltimore at New England
Chicago at Atlanta
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Green Bay at Minnesota
Houston at New York Jets

Kansas City at St. Louis
New York Giants at San Francisco
Oakland at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Buffalo
Seattle at Denver
Washington at Dallas
Monday, November 24
Los Angeles at New Orleans (N)
Thursday, November 27
Chicago at Detroit
Seattle at Dallas
Sunday, November 30
Buffalo at Baltimore
Cincinnati at Kansas City
Cleveland at Houston
Miami at Pittsburgh
Minnesota at New Orleans
New England at San Francisco
New York Jets at Los Angeles
Philadelphia at San Diego
St. Louis at New York Giants
Tampa Bay vs. Green Bay at Milw.
Washington at Atlanta
Monday, December 1
Denver at Oakland (N)
Thursday, December 4
Pittsburgh at Houston (N)
Sunday, December 7
Atlanta at Philadelphia
Baltimore at Cincinnati
Dallas at Oakland
Denver at Kansas City
Detroit at St. Louis
Green Bay at Chicago
Los Angeles at Buffalo
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
New Orleans at San Francisco
New York Giants at Seattle
New York Jets at Cleveland
San Diego at Washington
Monday, December 8
New England at Miami (N)
Saturday, December 13
New York Giants at Washington
Seattle at San Diego
Sunday, December 14
Buffalo at New England
Cincinnati at Chicago
Cleveland at Minnesota
Houston at Green Bay
Kansas City at Pittsburgh
Miami at Baltimore
New Orleans at New York Jets
Oakland at Denver
St. Louis at Philadelphia
San Francisco at Atlanta
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Monday, December 15
Dallas at Los Angeles (N)
Saturday, December 20
Chicago at Tampa Bay
New York Jets at Miami
Sunday, December 21
Atlanta at Los Angeles
Buffalo at San Francisco
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Denver at Seattle
Green Bay at Detroit
Kansas City at Baltimore
Minnesota at Houston
New England at New Orleans
Oakland at New York Giants
Philadelphia at Dallas
Washington at St. Louis
Monday, December 22
Pittsburgh at San Diego (N)

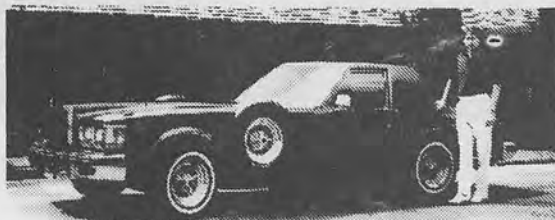
POSTSEASON

Sunday, December 28
NFL First Round Play-offs
Saturday, January 3
AFC and NFC Divisional Play-offs
Sunday, January 4
AFC and NFC Divisional Play-offs
Sunday, January 11
AFC Championship Game
NFC Championship Game
Sunday, January 25
Super Bowl XV in Superdome, New Orleans
Sunday, February 1
AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at Honolulu

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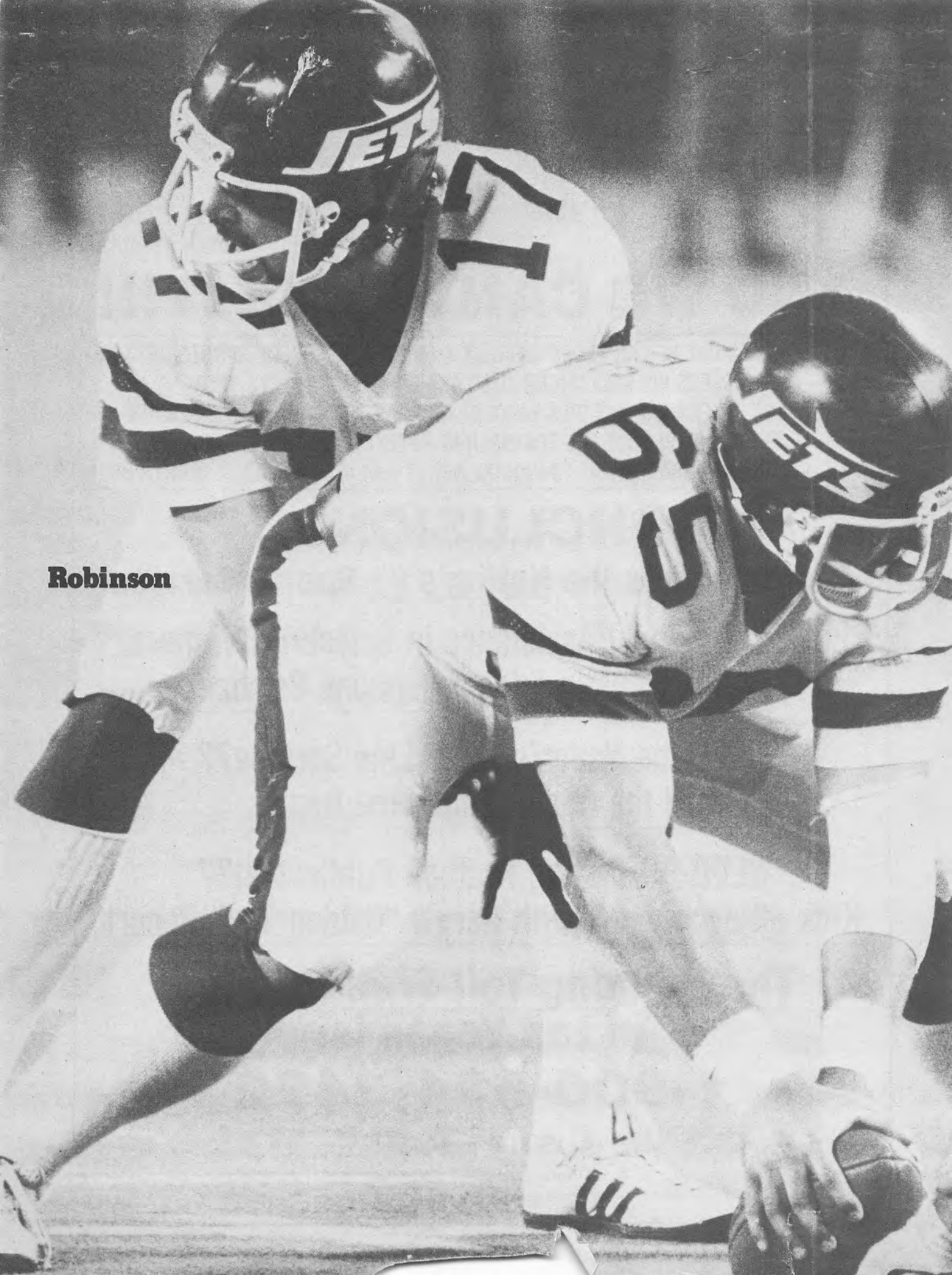
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What the Dallas Cowboys, Los Angeles Rams, Minnesota Vikings, and Washington Redskins couldn't do may be brought about by the energy crisis. The ten-year grip the American Football Conference has held on the NFL is threatened, not by a resurgence of National Conference power, but by the escalating costs of flying from one area of the nation to another in order to play a game.

"Break up the AFC!" may be a cry issued soon, not by the frustrated fans of NFC teams, but by the Federal Energy Department. The owners are likely to listen, since an airplane they used to charter for \$28,000 to carry their team from coast-to-coast now costs \$48,000. It already has been considered that the NFL realign in geographical terms, eliminating most of the cross-country flights.

But until realignment actually is here, the NFC doesn't have much immediate hope for relief from AFC domination. Of the 52 inter-conference games played last season, the AFC won 36 and lost 16. In Super Bowl XIV, an AFC team, Pittsburgh, won for the ninth time since 1970. The outlook doesn't look much brighter for the NFC in 1980.

For one thing, the Dallas Cowboys, the flagship of the "other" conference, seem to be in disarray as the result of retirements, attrition, and questionable drafting. The Los Angeles Rams, who gave Pittsburgh a tough battle in the last Super Bowl, seem to be one of the few teams capable of competing with the AFC powers.

And, for the second year in a row, the team which caught the fancy of the public by its off-season maneuvering is an AFC entry. Last year it was San Diego, which ended up winning the Western Division title. This year it is the Houston Oilers, who loaded up for a concentrated offensive against the Steelers in the AFC Central.

The Oilers made THE trade of the season, sending their longtime quarterback, Dan Pastorini, to the Oakland Raiders for battle-tested, pressure-responsive Kenny Stabler. By the testimony of all NFL coaches who would comment on the deal—including Oakland's Tom Flores—Houston got the better of the deal. Stabler gives Houston a quarterback who has performed at his best in play-off and pressure games; who won a Super Bowl; who is capable of playing a finesse passing game, the long-ball football of today, or of using a running game to full advantage. Several rival coaches feel Stabler will not only give Houston more diverse quarterbacking and more precise passing, but also will benefit the team's great run-

ner, Earl Campbell, possibly even prolong his career.

The Oilers also loaded up their bench by dealing for Jack Tatum, Oakland's notorious safety, and linebacker Sammy Green of the Seattle Seahawks.

The Oilers are not the AFC's only radically retooled entry. AFC teams also rank No. 2 and 3 in that category. Denver, long one of the league's toughest defensive teams but handicapped by a limited offense, made a spectacular trade with the New York Jets, obtaining young quarterback Matt Robinson. Robinson's ability to play long-ball, plus his mobility in the passing pocket, gives the Broncos enough balance to wrest the AFC Western championship they lost to San Diego last season.

The Chargers remain one of the most potent offensive teams, with Dan Fouts passing to remarkable receivers such as John Jefferson, Charlie Joiner, and the young tight end Kellen Winslow. But past deals drained their first three choices in this year's draft, and there is advanced age in the offensive line. Those flaws could be enough to allow Denver to slip past the Chargers in a hotly contested division.

It could be that the four best teams in the NFL, Pittsburgh, Houston, Denver, and San Diego, reside in the AFC.

The most exciting team may be the New York Jets, who firmly embraced new-era football by adding world-class sprinter Lam Jones of Texas and another speedy catcher, Michigan's Ralph Clayton, to an offensive unit which already included Wesley Walker, one of the fastest receivers in football. What Jet followers hope is that coach Walt Michaels did not trade the wrong quarterback when he dealt Robinson to Denver and kept Richard Todd.

With Roger Staubach retired, the AFC has a firmer grip on quarterbacking excellence than it ever did. The presence of Terry Bradshaw of Pittsburgh, Jim Zorn of Seattle, Brian Sipe of Cleveland, Stabler, and Fouts gives the AFC

five of the six top NFL quarterbacks. Only Archie Manning of New Orleans allows the NFC a quarterback in that kind of company now that Staubach has stopped playing. In addition AFC teams drafted the first three quarterbacks taken in the 1980 draft. Oakland selected Mark Wilson of Brigham Young, Pittsburgh took Mark Malone of Arizona State, and Buffalo selected Gene Bradley of Arkansas State.

It was a draft in which the Steelers, the last of the 28 NFL teams to select, enriched themselves with judicious picks. In addition to Malone, the Steelers got Arizona State star defensive end, Bob Kohrs, who will be converted to linebacker with typical Pittsburgh patience; defensive end John Goodman of Oklahoma, a possible eventual heir to L.C. Greenwood's position; tight end Ray Sydnor of Wisconsin, a 6-foot-8 ex-basketball star who seems ideal for the Steelers' goal-line offense; Bill Hurley, Syracuse's outstanding quarterback and a fine all-around athlete who will be groomed to play safety; plus guard Craig Wolfley of Syracuse, whose talents are nearly identical to those of Steve Courson, the young guard who was groomed carefully for three years and then starred in the team's play-off drive last September.

In addition to the quarterbacks, the AFC also gained the reigning Heisman Trophy winner, when Cleveland selected Charles White, the Southern California tailback. In keeping with the new type football, 9 of the 13 AFC first-round selections were offensive players.

Stabler



STREET & SMITH'S ALL AFC TEAM 1980

OFFENSE

Quarterback	K. Stabler—Houston
Running Back	E. Campbell—Houston
Running Back	F. Harris—Pittsburgh
Wide Receiver	W. Walker—New York
Wide Receiver	J. Stallworth—Pitts.
Tight End	R. Odoms—Denver
Tackle	L. Gray—Houston
Tackle	M. Powell—New York
Guard	J. Hannah—New England
Guard	B. Pratt—Baltimore
Center	M. Webster—Pitts.
Place-kicker	E. Herrera—Seattle

DEFENSE

End	A. Still—Kansas City
End	F. Dean—San Diego
Tackle	B. Baumhower—Miami
OLB	G. Buttle—New York
OLB	R. Brazile—Houston
ILB	R. Gradishar—Denver
ILB	J. Lambert—Pitts.
Cornerback	L. Wright—Denver
Cornerback	M. Haynes—New England
Strong Safety	K. Simpson—Seattle
Free Safety	T. Darden—Cleveland
Punter	B. Grupp—Kansas City



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I'm not going to tout percentages—that's nonsense! I want to go straight to what's important—PICKING WINNERS!

And I picked a lot of winners last year!

How many? My record speaks for itself! Count my winning picks just for the HOTLINE LAST YEAR

SEPTEMBER 1	Browns over Jets	WON!	Hawks over Falcons	WON!
	Chargers over 'Hawks	WON!		WINNING WEEK!
	Pat. over Steelers	WON!		
	WINNING WEEK!			
SEPTEMBER 9	Chargers over Raiders	WON!		WINNING WEEK!
	Dolphins over 'Hawks	WON!		
	WINNING WEEK!			
SEPTEMBER 16	Jets over Lions	WON!		WINNING WEEK!
	'Hawks over Raiders	WON!		
	Pat. over Bengals	WON!		
	WINNING WEEK!			
SEPTEMBER 23	Pat. over Chargers	WON!		
	Oilers over Bengals	WON!		
	WINNING WEEK!			
SEPTEMBER 30	Saints over Giants	WON!		
	Chiefs (+) over 'Hawks	WON!		
	WINNING WEEK!			
OCTOBER 7	Rams over Saints	WON!		
	'Hawks over 49ers	WON!		
	WINNING WEEK!			
OCTOBER 14	Raiders over Falcons	WON!		
OCTOBER 21	'Hawks over Vikes	WON!		
	Vikes over Bears	WON!		
	WINNING WEEK!			
OCTOBER 28	Colts over Pat.	WON!		
	49ers (+) over Bears	WON!		
	Bengals over Eagles	WON!		
	Dolphins over Packers	WON!		
				</

15 WINNING WEEKS OUT OF 16!

And that long list of winners doesn't even include my COLLEGE GAME picks or weekly 24-page FOOTBALL FORECAST MAGAZINE selections—because that would run into pages!

Plus, we offered several specials during the year

and hit BIG for our customers with...

- OUR LOCK OF THE YEAR—SOUTH CAROLINA 21 OVER WAKE FOREST—WON!
- OUR BIGGEST SERVICE OF ALL, A FOUR-TEAM PARLAY NO OTHER SERVICE EVER DARED TRY:
ATLANTA OVER SAN DIEGO WON!
CLEVELAND OVER HOUSTON WON!
NEW YORK OVER BALTIMORE WON!
BUFFALO (+) OVER DENVER WON!

That's the biggest winnings given by any service in any year in the history of football handicapping. My customers collected on four team parlays, three team parlays, two team parlays and straight plays!

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And, as you can see from just a partial list of our winners, we buried 'em all year!

Was last year a fluke?

No way! The year before, our Pro Hotline alone in its last seven weeks had twenty-six winners... and two years ago, our very first year of operation, our Hotline went an incredible 81 per cent against the line!

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Our subscribers are making all the money! AND SO CAN YOU!

Joining up with me is easy. Unlike some other services, I don't charge you an arm or a leg... and I give you a choice of services to suit your needs—no matter whether you are a high roller, a medium player or just a weekend dabbler.

Size up these money-making services:

• **MY SUPER HOT HOTLINE**—The most sophisticated prognostication system in football. You'll learn how we pick winners. Our computer analyzes more than 40 factors that affect each game. (It's an offshoot of the system I've been using at the track that's made me a 60 per cent winner—in racing that's unheard of.) We're in daily contact with a nationwide network of stringers who give us their on-the-scene reports on every team. You'll also get invitations along with this to participate in our special Lock of the Year and Grand Slam four team parlays. You'll be covered for the full season—16 weeks of the NFL schedule plus 14 weeks of the College schedule for only \$100.

• **My Football FORECAST**—The best and most readable magazine in the handicapping field. Each weekly issue averages 24 pages, chock-filled with inside information, hot tips, the latest line for both College and Pro... weekend selections for both College and Pro... special offerings... post game analysis... and Winners! Winners! Winners! This is the service for those who like to go behind the scenes and learn what's really happening in the world of football away from the canned press releases and "only good" press released to the dailies. You'll get 17 issues, mailed to your home each week for just \$40—that's \$11 off the regular \$3 per copy newsstand price.

• **Plus...** if you come in as an early subscriber, I'll send you absolutely free my best selling book... **BEATING THE SPREAD**... filled with facts, statistics and insights on interpreting all the factors that go into winning a game and figuring when a team beats the points spread.



FREE!

This is a new and updated version of the book that made the boys in Vegas quake and shake... and it will show you how to become a master handicapper picking winners, just like I do. It's priced to sell for \$20. But, it's yours FREE if you come in for this outstanding offer at this time.

Okay, are you ready!

I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT TO BET. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO BET!

I WILL NOT LET YOU LOSE.

Take another look at my list of winners. That's plenty—all against the spread, each one making money for my customers.

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Two of the league's three new coaches will work in the AFC. Both worked as head coaches before. Cincinnati hired Forrest Gregg, formerly head coach at Cleveland, to bring order out of chaos with the Bengals. Paul Brown's decision to bring Gregg down from Toronto of the Canadian League hinged partly on the ex-Packers' reputation as a disciplinarian.

Baltimore hired Mike McCormack, once head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, to replace Ted Marchibroda, fired by owner Robert Isray after the end of the 1979 season. Any chance McCormack has for success hinges greatly upon the condition of Bert Jones's throwing arm. Jones hardly played in the last two seasons, but the off-season prognosis this year was good.

Ironically, the Bengals and Colts face two of the toughest opening schedules in the league. In their first five games, the Colts meet Pittsburgh and Houston; Miami, the defending champion in the AFC East; and the Jets twice. Cincinnati plays division champions—Tampa

Bay, Miami, and Pittsburgh—in its first three games, then Houston and Pittsburgh again within its next three.

Speaking of difficult schedules, Denver plays play-off caliber teams—Philadelphia, Dallas, San Diego, New England, Cleveland, and Washington—in its first six games. The question of whether Stabler has made a difference in the Oilers may be answered early, since Houston plays Pittsburgh on opening day and then meets Cleveland in a Monday night game the next week.

The argument over the 3-4 defensive alignment still rages in the AFC, where it was pioneered as a basic set. Cincinnati, which went to the 3-4 under Homer Rice and then abandoned it, will take it up again under Gregg. The Jets, who used the 3-4 almost exclusively last season, are going back to the 4-3. Cleveland will make more pronounced use of the 3-4, but New England, which had used it almost exclusively since 1974, indicates it will try a lot more of the four-man line. Oakland vacillates about it.

Offensively, the major change is in Buffalo, where the Bills' Chuck Knox has installed the shotgun formation for passing situations. The Bills will be the first AFC team to use the shotgun, which has been a Dallas exclusive. Kansas City will be weaned away from the Wing T formation by Marv Levy, who installed it two years ago in his first year of rebuilding.

AFC players won seven of nine individual statistical championships last year. Earl Campbell of Houston was the top ground gainer again with 1,697 yards. Joe Washington, the Baltimore running back, had the most receptions, 82, and Seattle wide receiver Steve

Largent had the most reception yardage, 1,237. Houston safety Mike Reinfeldt had the most pass interceptions, 12. The leading scorer, via kicking, was John Smith of New England with 115 points. The leading scorer by touchdowns was Campbell with 114 points on 19 touchdowns. Bob Grupp, Kansas City's rookie punter, had the best average, 43.6 yards, and the best net average, 37.2. Larry Brunson of Oakland was the leading kickoff returner with a 25.9-yard average.

The top individual titles could go to these players in 1980:

Ground gaining—Earl Campbell, Houston Oilers, for the third straight year.

Passing—Brian Sipe, Cleveland Browns.

Scoring—Efren Herrera, Seattle Seahawks, by kicking, and Franco Harris, Pittsburgh Steelers, by touchdowns.

Punt returns—J.T. Smith, Kansas City Chiefs.

Kickoff returns—Ralph Clayton, New York Jets.

Punting—Bob Grupp, Kansas City Chiefs.

Most valuable player—Ken Stabler, Houston Oilers.

Rookie of the year, offense—Lam Jones, New York Jets.

Rookie of the year, defense—Jacob Green, Seattle Seahawks.

Coach of the year—Walt Michaels, New York Jets.

AFC

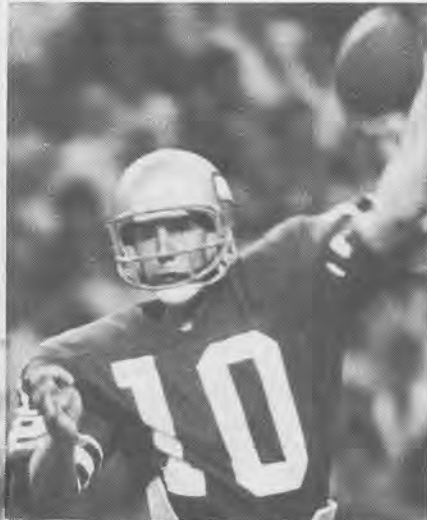
Haynes



Stallworth



Zorn



Sipe



Campbell

AFC

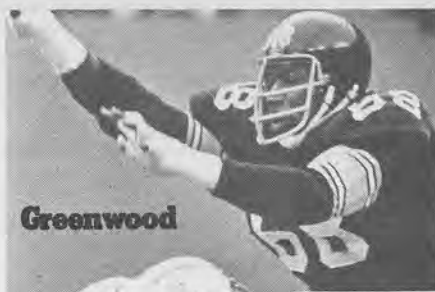
STREET & SMITH'S TEAM OF THE DECADE

OFFENSE

Quarterback	T. Bradshaw—Pittsburgh
Running Back	O.J. Simpson—Buffalo
Running Back	F. Harris—Pittsburgh
Wide Receiver	P. Warfield—Miami
Wide Receiver	L. Swann—Pittsburgh
Tight End	D. Casper—Oakland
Tackle	R. Washington—San Diego
Tackle	A. Shell—Oakland
Guard	J. Hannah—New England
Guard	J. DeLamielleure—Buffalo
Center	J. Langer—Miami
Place-kicker	G. Yepremian—Miami

DEFENSE

End	L.C. Greenwood—Pitts.
End	L. Alzado—Denver
Tackle	J. Greene—Pittsburgh
Tackle	J. Sherk—Cleveland
MLB	J. Lambert—Pittsburgh
OLB	J. Ham—Pittsburgh
OLB	R. Brazile—Houston
Cornerback	W. Brown—Oakland
Cornerback	L. Wright—Denver
Strong Safety	D. Anderson—Miami
Free Safety	J. Scott—Miami
Punter	R. Guy—Oakland



Greenwood



Alzado



Shell

When the Kansas City Chiefs surprised the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV, their coach, Hank Stram, celebrated the victory by announcing that the game had introduced "the offense of the seventies."

As it turned out, Stram was wrong. What the game introduced was the conference of the seventies. The American Football Conference dominated the NFL in the decade just finished. It dominated it to the point of absurdity. The AFC won all but two Super Bowls in the 1970's. Only the Dallas Cowboys were able to crack that dominance and then only against two of the AFC's emerging teams, the Miami Dolphins of 1971 and the Denver Broncos of 1977.

It was Miami, under Don Shula, and the Pittsburgh Steelers, under Chuck Noll, which were the foremost teams of the decade. The Dolphins appeared in three consecutive Super Bowls and, after losing the first one to the Cowboys, won two straight against Washington and Minnesota without a great deal of resistance.

Pittsburgh was even more dominant. The Steelers entered the decade with a 1-13 record under Noll. But the scouting department had been overhauled and the Rooney family invested patience in its young coach. Within a six-year period, the Steelers used four first-round draft choices to pick players who will be elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame some day.

Using those four—defensive tackle Joe Greene, quarterback Terry Bradshaw, fullback Franco Harris, and wide receiver Lynn Swann—as the nucleus, Noll built the Steelers into what may be the greatest team

in the history of professional football. The Steelers are four-for-four, having beaten Minnesota, Dallas twice, and Los Angeles, in the Super Bowl. They are still counting as we go into the eighties.

Only the dominance of Miami and Pittsburgh kept Oakland from taking a more prominent place in the decade. The Raiders lost the AFC championship game a half dozen times. The one year they did make the Super Bowl, Game XI, the Raiders decimated Minnesota, 32-14.

The seventies were the years of awesome defenses: Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain, Miami's No Names, Denver's Orange Crush. They were also the years of the most dominant players, AFC players.

O.J. Simpson ran for a breathtaking 2,003 yards in 1973, one of the great feats in NFL history. The Juice won four NFL ground-gaining titles for the Buffalo Bills. When O.J. left the AFC, Earl Campbell arrived. No arrival had more impact. He won the NFL ground-gaining title in his first two seasons, running for a combined total of 3,147 yards.

There were many distinguished quarterbacks, but few more dominant than Miami's Bob Griese, Oakland's Kenny Stabler, and Bradshaw of Pittsburgh.

Then there were the coaches. Shula started over in the seventies, moving from Baltimore to Miami at the start of the decade. The Dolphins had been a struggling beginner until his arrival. He made them an immediate winner, and in his second season they were in the Super Bowl. They also finished the decade as a divisional champion. Noll had his first winner in 1972 and the Steelers have not looked back since. John Madden had a spectacular career with Oakland, winning 93 games and six division championships in the 1970's, until his stunning retirement after the 1978 season.

Even the most memorable games, aside from the Super Bowls, involved AFC teams. First, there was Miami's startling victory in the play-offs at Kansas City when Garo Yepremian beat the Chiefs in overtime, 27-24.

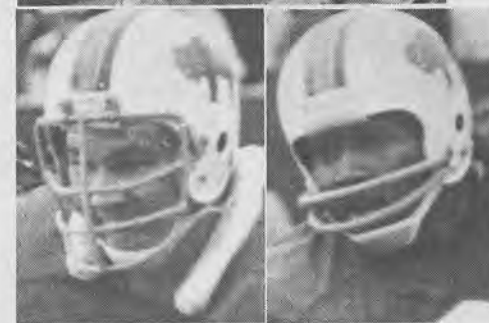
The next season, 1972, was when Pittsburgh upset Oakland, 13-7, in the "Immaculate Reception" play-off game, as Harris caught a fourth-down Bradshaw pass which ricocheted off someone's chest. Franco then raced 40 yards for the winning points with five seconds to play.

It was Clarence Davis's diving catch of Stabler's pass which ended Miami's quest for a third straight Super Bowl, 28-26, in the 1974 play-offs.

Oakland won another thriller in the 1977 play-offs, as Stabler threw a ten-yard pass to Dave Casper in the second overtime to beat Baltimore, 37-31.



Langer



DeLamielleure

Simpson



Warfield



Bradshaw

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AFCentral

PITTSBURGH STEELERS The Steelers always seem to find an objective. Last year it was their fourth Super Bowl, universal recognition as the team of the seventies. This year it's universal recognition as the team for all seasons, the best team in football history—better than Lombardi's Packers, Shula's Dolphins, Halas's great Bear teams, the Colts of Johnny Unitas's prime.

Who's to argue? The Cowboys appear ready to crumble as Minnesota did last year, but the Steelers go on, and on, and...



Pittsburgh Steelers' coach Chuck Noll

It's been said before, but it will have to be said again: Chuck Noll, who prefers to stay in the background, proves year after year that he belongs with the game's all-time great coaches. Complacency is barred from the Steeler dressing room as long as Noll is in command. The Pittsburgh players may think they are self-starting, but it is Noll's subtle ways which keep motivating them. He just won't allow them to take a sabbatical.

Even when they soften during a game, the Steelers atone by performing a vicious penance. When they turned the ball over to Cincinnati nine times one October Sunday last year and were beaten, 34-10, by a team which had not won until then, they rebounded by barbecuing three straight winning teams: Denver, 42-7; Dallas, 14-3; and Washington, 38-7.

Even injuries don't stop Pittsburgh as they do other teams. The Steelers had a lot of them last season. It was game six before the regular starting lineup was intact. It was even longer before the defensive regulars started a game together. When San Diego gave the Steelers their worst defeat since 1969, 35-7, in California, the Steelers atoned for it the following week. Cleveland led them by 14 points in the last quarter, but they came back to win in overtime.

During the Pittsburgh era of domination in pro football, the emphasis has shifted several times in shading the type of victories the team accomplished. At the beginning it was a defensive club, the Steel Curtain which throttled all comers and asked of the offense only that it not

put them too deeply into trouble. Later there was more balance, with Franco Harris's running giving the attack a ball-control look. Then, two years ago, the offense went big play, with Terry Bradshaw striking often to his great wide receivers, John Stallworth and Lynn Swann. Today Bradshaw is the one indispensable Steeler.

When Swann was on the bench with an injury and Harris was harried by the Los Angeles Rams' defense in the last Super Bowl, it was Bradshaw who made the two big plays of the game with deadly, deep passes to the spectacular Stallworth.

It is one of sport's greater ironies that just a few seasons ago Bradshaw was looked upon by the public as a dimwit. There is little question that Bradshaw is the best quarterback in football now. At least he is the only one who can wear four Super Bowl rings.

There was mild consternation in Pittsburgh when he talked about retiring "in a year or two" the day after the Steelers defeated the Rams in Super Bowl XIV. But those close to the club remembered that just before training camp opened last year, Bradshaw spoke of playing "five or six more years."

At 32, Bradshaw has the experience to go with his great physical skills. "He's the general," says Joe Greene, the team's defensive leader. Bradshaw himself admits it. "In every game situation, I've been there," he says. "Whether it's third and 20 or we're on the one-yard line, I know what to do."

Every year, Noll allows him to do more and more. After he was intercepted three times by the Rams, he refused to go into a shell, but rather struck with a long, 73-yard touchdown pass to Stallworth which broke open the game.

Stallworth, always appreciated by his teammates, won national acclaim last season. With Swann injured in the first half of the season, the emphasis shifted to Stallworth, and he set a Steeler record by catching 70 passes. There were three other NFL wide receivers who caught more, but his 16.9-yard per-catch average was higher than any of theirs. In the play-offs and Super Bowl, Stallworth had a dozen catches for three touchdowns and a 21.6 average.

Despite his injuries, the graceful Swann still caught 41 passes for a 19.7-yard average and eight scores. In the play-offs it was 12 receptions for two touchdowns and a 15-yard average.

Jim Smith filled in when Swann was hurt. He doesn't have Swann's speed, but he caught 17 passes for two touchdowns and a 14.3 average.

The Steelers still wait for tight end Bennie Cunningham to flower fully. He gets better year by year, but he still has skills he hasn't cultivated. Last year he caught 36 balls for four touchdowns and a 14.2-yard average.

Franco Harris will move into third place among the NFL's all-time ground gainers early this season. Only Jim Brown and O.J. Simpson will be ahead of him. Franco also can make it his eighth 1,000-yard season, breaking a tie for the record which he shares with Brown. Harris didn't have his usual bust-it-open play-off game or Super Bowl, but that is due more to Pitts-

burgh's changing offensive style than to any decline on his part.

The Steelers throw to Harris more these days. He caught 36 passes during the regular season, a personal high for him, but then the Steelers used him even more frequently in the play-offs. He led the team with 14 receptions.

No one can afford to unload on Harris these days. Not with Sidney Thornton as his running mate. Thornton had a 5.0-yard average, tops among the AFC's top 20 rushers, when he got hurt.

But the new twist in the Steeler offense could involve Greg Hawthorne, the team's No. 1 draft choice of a year ago. The 6-2½, 225-pounder showed enough to convince Noll he can get the short yardage, catch, and also make the big play. Then there is Rocky Bleier. Rocky is 34 now, but he had to play when Thornton got hurt last year and contributed a 4.7-yard rushing average and 31 catches. He also scored twice in the play-offs.

Other than All-Pro center Mike Webster, even most avid fans can't name the Steelers' offensive linemen. Yet Pittsburgh led the NFL in average gain running and allowed its quarterbacks to be sacked only 27 times, second best in the league. That is no accident.

What they lack in notoriety, the Steelers compensate for in depth and competition. The byword on this unit is "don't get hurt." Guard Gerry Mullins did last year and Steve Courson, a youngster built like Superman, won raves for his work as the replacement. Jon Kolb, an iron-man tackle until he hurt a shoulder last year, was nearly forgotten when Ted Peterson played the last six regular season games, plus the play-offs and Super Bowl.

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Bahr, 104 points on 18 field goals and 50 PAT's... 3rd
RUSHING—Harris, 267 carries for 1186 yards, 4.4 avg., 11 TD's... 3rd
PASSING—Bradshaw, 259 of 472 attempts for 3724 yards, 26 TD's... 6th
RECEIVING—Stallworth, 70 receptions for 1183 yards, 16.9 avg., 8 TD's... 3rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Lambert, 6 for 29 yards, 4.8 avg., 8th
PUNTING—Colquitt, 68 punts, 40.2 avg., longest 61 yards... 7th
PUNT RETURNS—Smith, 16 for 146 yards, 9.1 avg., 7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Anderson, 34 for 732 yards, 21.5 avg., 7th

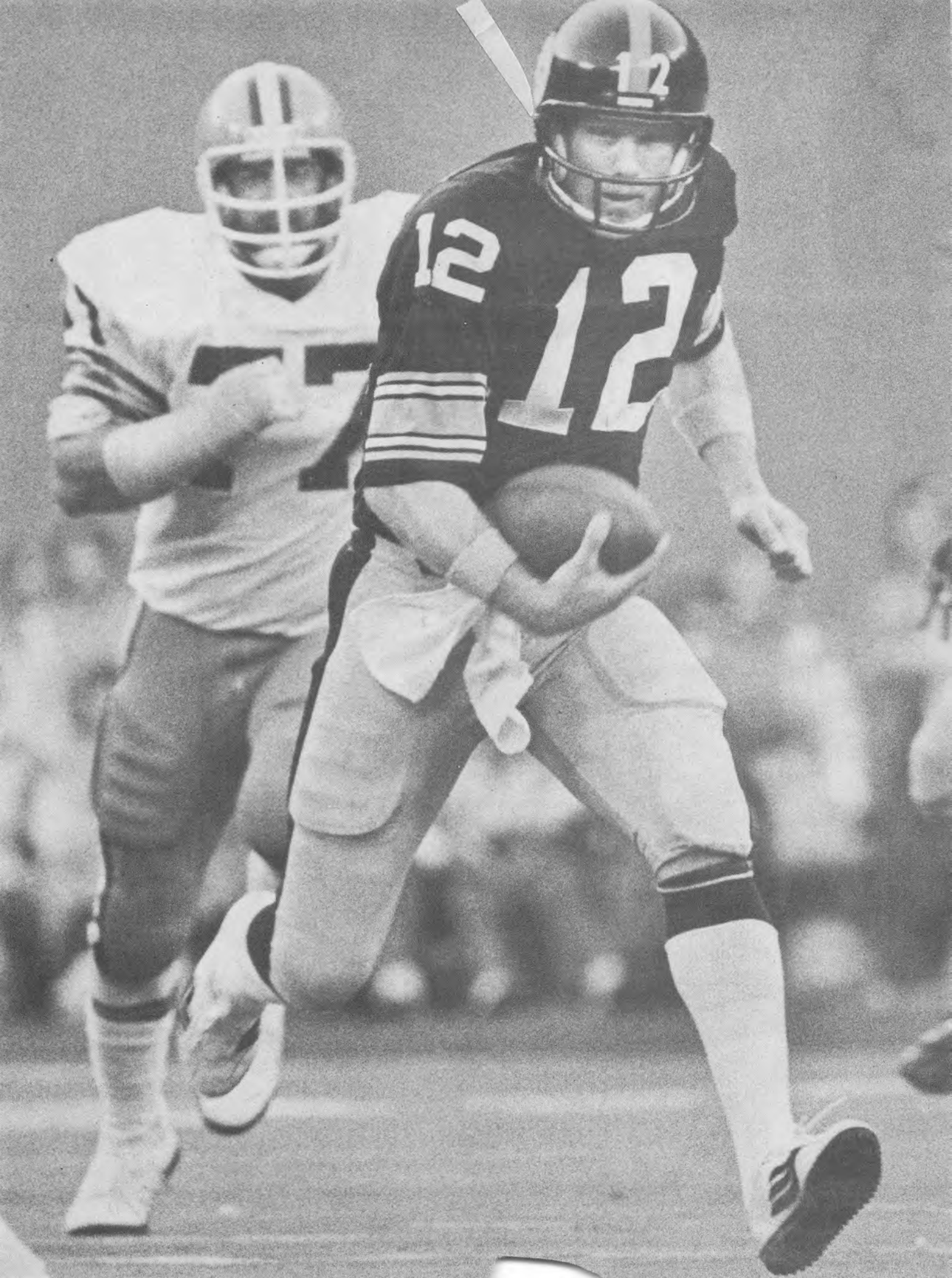
PRE-SEASON GAMES

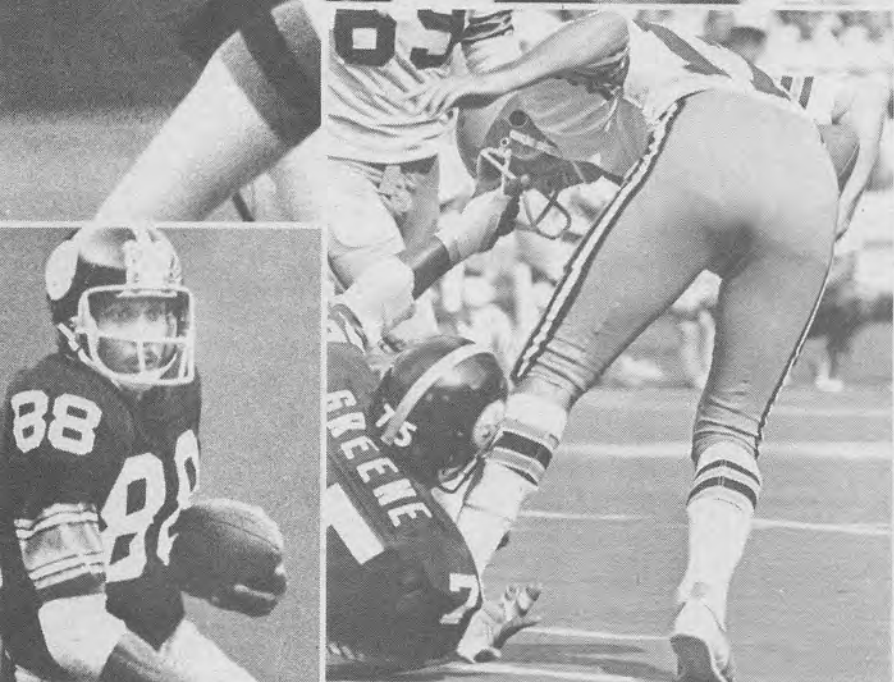
August 9 At NY Giants (N)
16 At Atlanta
23 NY JETS (N)
30 At Dallas (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

1980 SCHEDULE	1979 SCORES
September 7 HOUSTON	38-7
14 At Baltimore	17-13
21 At Cincinnati	10-34
28 CHICAGO	
October 5 At Minnesota	
12 CINCINNATI	37-17
20 OAKLAND (N)	
26 At Cleveland	51-35
November 2 GREEN BAY	
9 At Tampa Bay	
16 CLEVELAND	33-30
23 At Buffalo	28-0
30 MIAMI	
December 4 At Houston (N)	17-20
14 KANSAS CITY	30-3
22 At San Diego (N)	7-35

Terry Bradshaw has led Pittsburgh to four Super Bowl wins.





Standouts of the Steelers
(clockwise from center):
Joe Greene demonstrating
his meanness at
Brian Sipe's expense;
Franco Harris hitting the hole;
L.C. Greenwood and **Dennis**
Winston harassing
Joe Ferguson;
running back **Sid Thornton**;
John Stallworth eluding
Oakland;
and the incomparable
Lynn Swann.

Sam Davis is the other starter at guard. At 35, he is at the top of his game. He is the team captain. Noll isn't influenced by age. If you can still play, you stay in the lineup.

The other tackle is Larry Brown, the ex-tight end who has become one of the most efficient tackles in the league. Ray Pinney used to start in front of him. But then Ray suffered appendicitis last summer.

Defensively, the Steelers now come at you in squadrons. But the result is the same. Pittsburgh was the top defensive unit in the AFC again last year.

STEELERS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
33	Anderson, A.	RB	6-0	197	24	R	Temple
69	Anderson, F.	DE-DT	6-4	250	26	2	Prarie View
30	Anderson, L.	CB	5-11	177	24	2	La Tech
9	Bahr, Matt	PK	5-10	165	24	R	Penn St.
76	Banaszak, J.	DE-DT	6-3	244	30	5	E. Michigan
65	Beasley, T.	DT	6-5	253	26	2	Va. Tech
83	Bell, T.	WR	5-11	180	27	3	Arizona
20	Bleier, R.	RB	5-11	210	34	11	Notre Dame
47	Blount, M.	CB	6-3	205	32	10	Southern
12	Bradshaw, T.	QB	6-3	215	32	10	La Tech
79	Brown, L.	DT	6-4	245	31	9	Kansas
56	Cole, R.	LB	6-2	220	25	3	New Mexico
5	Colquitt, C.	P	6-1	182	26	2	Tennessee
77	Courson, S.	G	6-1	260	25	2	S. Carolina
89	Cunningham, B.	TE	6-5	247	26	4	Clemson
45	Davis, R.	RB	6-1	215	24	R	Michigan
57	Davis, S.	G	6-1	255	36	13	Allen
63	Dornbrook, T.	C-G	6-2	240	24	1	Kentucky
26	Douglas, L.	WR	6-1	187	23	R	Southern
67	Dunn, G.	DT	6-3	247	27	3	Miami
62	Fry, W.	DT	6-3	245	25	1	Notre Dame
64	Furness, S.	DT-DE	6-4	255	30	8	Rhode Island
50	Graves, T.	LB	6-3	228	25	R	Michigan St.
75	Greene, J.	DT	6-4	260	34	11	N. Texas St.
68	Greenwood, L.C.	DE	6-6	250	34	11	Ark. AM & N
84	Grossman, R.	TE	6-1	215	28	6	Temple
59	Ham, J.	LB	6-1	225	32	9	Penn St.
32	Harris, F.	RB	6-2	225	30	8	Penn St.
27	Hawthorne, G.	RB	6-2	225	24	R	Baylor
29	Johnson, R.	CB	5-10	200	24	2	E. Michigan
55	Kolb, J.	OT	6-2	262	33	11	Okla. S.
15	Kruczek, M.	QB	6-1	205	27	4	Boston Coll.
58	Lambert, J.	LB	6-4	220	28	6	Kent S.
39	Moser, R.	RB	6-0	210	24	2	Rhode Island
72	Mullins, G.	G	6-3	244	31	9	USC
66	Petersen, T.	C-OT	6-5	244	25	3	E. Illinois
74	Pinney, R.	OT-G	6-4	240	26	4	Washington
31	Shell, D.	S	5-11	190	28	6	SC St.
86	Smith, J.	WR-KR	6-2	205	25	3	Michigan
82	Stallworth, J.	WR	6-2	183	28	6	Ala. A&M
18	Stoudt, C.	DB	6-4	218	25	3	Youngstown
88	Swann, L.	WR	6-0	180	28	6	USC
85	Sweeney, C.	WR	6-0	180	25	R	USC
24	Thomas, J.T.	CB	6-2	196	29	6	Florida S.
38	Thornton, S.	RB	5-11	230	26	3	NW La.
51	Toews, L.	LB	6-3	222	29	7	California
54	Valentine, Z.	LB	6-2	220	23	R	E. Carolina
23	Wagner, M.	S	6-1	200	31	9	W. Illinois
52	Webster, M.	C	6-1	250	28	6	Wisconsin
78	White, D.	DE	6-4	255	31	9	E. Texas S.
53	Winston, D.	LB	6-0	228	25	3	Arkansas
49	Woodruff, D.	CB	5-11	189	23	R	Louisville

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Malone, Mark	QB	6-4	223	21	Arizona St.
2	Kohrs, Bob	LB	6-3	224	21	Arizona St.
2	Goodman, John	DE	6-6	245	21	Oklahoma
3	Sydnor, Ray	TE	6-8	225	22	Wisconsin
4	Hurley, Bill	QB	5-11	195	22	Syracuse
5	Woffley, Craig	G	6-1	267	21	Syracuse
6	Ikin, Tunch	C	6-3	239	22	Indiana St.
7	Johnson, Nate	WR	5-11	192	23	Hillsdale
9	McCall, Ron	WR	6-0	192	21	Pine Bluff
10	Wilson, Woodrow	CB	5-9	183	23	N. C. St.
10	Fritz, Ken	G	6-2	252	22	Ohio St.
11	Pollard, Frank	RB	5-10	210	22	Baylor
12	Vaclavik, Charles	DB	6-1	191	23	Texas
12	McGriff, Tyrone	G	6-0	273	22	Florida A&M

The old smoothies—or is it old roughies?—left end L.C. Greenwood and left tackle Joe Greene, aren't platooned. But four guys share the duty on the right side of the line. John Banaszak tends to overshadow veteran Dwight White at right end, but White still has some valuable moments. Gary Dunn and Steve Furness have to be efficient at tackle, because Tom Beasley pushes them. Defensive coach George Perles also is on the verge of unleashing another stud, defensive end Fred Anderson. He's the fastest Steeler lineman. A broken hand put him on injured reserve last season.

The linebacking, which has been superb for years, should continue to be superb. Jack Lambert remains one of the two or three best middle/inside linebackers in the game, a voracious tackler to whom most of the action is funneled. He also is underrated for his work against the pass.

Jack Ham is still an All-Pro class outside backer, but he was injured and unable to play in the latter part of the play-offs. That allowed Noll to use Dennis Winston, nominally Lambert's backup, on the outside. Winston performed extremely well. The other outside backer, Robin Cole, has great speed and quickness.

There is room for versatility. Loren Towes has been a starter in the past and can be used in a variety of ways. Zack Valentine, a high draft choice last year, got in some playing time and it probably will be increased this year.

In the secondary, change has taken place for the last three seasons, and there is possibility of another change this year. First, there was the emergence of Donnie Shell as the starting strong safety. Then it was Ron Johnson, who, as a rookie, replaced J.T. Thomas as a starting corner after Thomas was stricken by a blood disorder. Last year, when Mike Wagner was injured again, Thomas returned to football and became the starting free safety. This season, the best possibility for change is with Dwayne Woodruff, used as the fifth back in the nickel defense during his rookie season. He played well, and the coaches think he has a big future. Larry Anderson, the kick-return star of the Super Bowl, also is a cornerback, but his value remains chiefly as a returner.

The Steeler kicking game is first rate. Matt Bahr connected on 18 field goals in 30 attempts in his rookie season, outperforming such other notable rookie kickers as Tony Franklin and Russell Erxleben. Punter Craig Colquitt punted soundly, despite being distracted by personal problems.

Pittsburgh had an amazingly good draft, considering that it was selecting last again, as a result of its Super Bowl victory. The first choice was Arizona State quarterback Mark Malone, possibly the best pure athlete in the draft. With some seasoning and additional coaching, he could be Bradshaw's eventual successor, leapfrogging more experienced backups Mike Kruczek and Cliff Stoudt.

The second round brought defensive prospects, Arizona State defensive end Bob Kohrs, who will be converted to linebacker, and Oklahoma defensive lineman John Goodman.

Later came Ray Sydnor, Wisconsin's 6-8 tight end; Bill Hurley, Syracuse's highly skilled but short (5-11) quarterback who could make it as a safety, running back, or even at quarterback. After them came Craig Woffley, a Syra-

cuse guard with the same kind of qualifications as Courson, and Nate Johnson, the NAIA sprint champion from Hillsdale, who has possibilities as a wide receiver or cornerback.

In addition, there is a bonus. The Steelers have two high draft choices who were injured last year. Russell Davis is the Michigan fullback who scored six touchdowns in the East-West Shrine Bowl of 1978. Calvin Sweeney is a class wide receiver.

HOUSTON OILERS "Dan Pastorini is the quarterback of the Houston Oilers and will be as long as I'm coaching here," said Bum Phillips one day last March. A week later Pastorini was traded to the Oakland Raiders.

There are certain things which will cause a coach to change his mind. Bum's certain thing was Kenny Stabler. For two years, the Pittsburgh Steelers stood between the Oilers and a division championship. For that matter, the Steelers stood between the Oilers and the Super Bowl. The Oilers think Stabler may enable them to negotiate that formidable obstacle. There are neutral football people who agree with them.

"This is a team which beat San Diego in the play-offs without Pastorini, without Earl Campbell, and without their best receiver, Ken Burroughs," says a rival coach. "Stabler can put them in the Super Bowl. He's won and he knows how to win."

There are those who are skeptical. They point to Stabler's 34 years, his aging body, his unorthodox lifestyle. But if the Snake was to cave in, last season would have been the time. He had a terrible season the year before. He had dissipated. He feuded with Al Davis, the Raiders' Svengali, and publicly criticized several of his teammates. He had been involved in a bizarre episode with a Sacramento sports writer.



Oilers' mastermind Bum Phillips

But Stabler made a spectacular comeback in 1979. He passed for 3,615 yards and 26 touchdowns. He kept Oakland in play-off contention longer than anyone anticipated. He did it without an Earl Campbell to constrict opposing defenses.

Now he has Campbell to leaven his attack, plus some other formidable weapons. He is a good bet to do what Pastorini never was able to



do, virtually will his team to victory. Stabler at his best and Campbell at his best would be a perplexing challenge for even the best defenses.

Campbell won his second consecutive NFL ground-gaining championship last year, running for 1,697 yards and giving him a two-year total of 3,147 yards, the most ever by an NFL runner in his first two seasons. Even when the opposition knows he is coming, Campbell still gets his yards. In 1979, Campbell made 66 of the Oilers' 109 third-down conversions. In the short-yardage situations, second-, third-, and fourth-down plays with less than three yards to go for the first down, he carried the ball 88 times and got the first down 59 times, a 67 percent efficiency.

What happens now when the opposing defenses gird themselves for Campbell, but also know that the Snake will throw in such situations? The play-action pass may become Houston's ticket to the Super Bowl.

Campbell was a battered player at the end of last season and also played hurt in two other mid-season games. Stabler's passing could take a lot of the heat off Earl, keeping him healthier.

Pastorini predicted after the trade that Stabler would have trouble beating out Gifford Nielsen, the young backup quarterback. "I think Mr. Stabler might be a little surprised when he competes with Gifford," says Pastorini. "It's going to be an interesting situation." But it also has to be an added asset for Houston if Nielsen, in his third pro season, challenges Stabler. That would give the Oilers added protection in case of an injury to Stabler.

Stabler became accustomed to throwing to a pair of outstanding tight ends last season in Oakland when Raymond Chester and Dave Casper were used in double tight end formation so often. Houston can offer him a reasonable facsimile with Mike Barber and Richard Caster. Barber averaged 13.9 yards on his 27 catches

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Campbell, 114 points on 19 TD's... 2nd
RUSHING—Campbell, 368 carries for 1697 yards, 4.6 avg., 19 TD's... 1st
PASSING—Pastorini, 163 of 324 attempts for 2090 yards, 14 TD's... 13th
RECEIVING—Burrough, 40 receptions for 752 yards, 18.8 avg., 6 TD's... 31st
INTERCEPTIONS—Reinfeldt, 12 for 205 yards, 17.1 avg... 1st
PUNTING—Parsley, 93 punts, 40.6 avg., longest 59 yards... 6th
PUNT RETURNS—Ellender, 31 for 203 yards, 6.5 avg... 14th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Ellender, 24 for 514 yards, 21.4 avg... 8th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 11 TAMPA BAY (N)
17 NEW ORLEANS
23 At Dallas (N)
28 BUFFALO (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

		1979 SCORES
September	7 At Pittsburgh	7-38
	15 At Cleveland (N)	7-14
	21 BALTIMORE	28-16
	28 At Cincinnati	30-27
October	5 SEATTLE	14-34
	12 At Kansas City	20-6
	19 TAMPA BAY	—
	26 CINCINNATI	42-21
November	2 At Denver	—
	10 NEW ENGLAND (N)	—
	16 At Chicago	—
	23 At NY Jets	27-24
	30 CLEVELAND	31-10
December	4 PITTSBURGH (N)	20-17
	14 At Green Bay	—
	21 MINNESOTA	—

Earl Campbell meets Pitt's Jack Ham; Elvin Bethea (#65) and Robert Brazile (#52) crunch Dan Doornink.

and Casper, who also played some wide receiver, caught 18 for a 14.4-yard average.

Burrough is one of the NFL's top deep threats when he is healthy. He averaged 18.8 yards on his 40 catches, scoring six times. Mike Renfro, the central figure in the officiating rhubarb in the AFC championship game, averaged 20.2 yards on 16 catches during an injury-plagued season.

The passing game will get a bonus if Billy (White Shoes) Johnson stays healthy enough to be used as a spot receiver.

Tim Wilson is used primarily as a blocking back for Campbell, but he averaged 3.8 yards in his 84 totes. Rob Carpenter, used as Campbell's backup, averaged 3.9 yards on 92 carries and was one of the heroes of the upset victory in the play-offs. Campbell is not one of the better pass catchers coming out of the backfield, so Carpenter or Ronnie Coleman is substituted for him in such situations. Each scored on a pass last year.

After losing their best offensive lineman, tackle Greg Sampson, because of a blood clot in his brain, the Oilers made the 1979 season's most startling trade, dealing first- and second-round draft choices to New England for All-Pro tackle Leon Gray. At least one poll named Gray the league's outstanding offensive lineman after the season. He digs some of Campbell's best holes.

Carl Mauch is one of the NFL's better centers, but the rest of the offensive line is somewhat faceless. Conway Hayman beat out Morris Towns for the tackle position opposite Gray. Ed Fisher and David Carter finished the season as the starting guards, but behind them are John Schumacher, injured last year, and George Reihner, who has battled injuries since making the all-rookie team three years ago.

Toni Fritsch was the NFL's most efficient place-kicker last season with 21 field goals in 25 attempts. He was 10 for 13 from the 40 and further. His field goals were the margin of victory in four Houston wins, two of them in overtime.

Defensively, the Oilers' stats might not have been as impressive as they were the season before, but three Houston defenders went to the Pro Bowl and another was the most talked about defensive player of the play-offs.

The three Pro Bowlers were linebacker Robert Brazile, who was selected for the fourth time in four pro seasons; free safety Mike Reinfeldt, who led the NFL in interceptions with a dozen; and end Elvin Bethea, who begins his thirteenth season as an Oiler.

The defender who caused all the post-season talk is Vernon Perry, whom Phillips signed as a free agent after he played out his option with Montreal of the Canadian League. Perry had an excellent season as the starting strong safety, then outdid himself by intercepting four passes in the play-off victory over San Diego.

In addition to his interceptions, Perry contributed the turn-around play of the game. Mike Wood of the Chargers lined up to kick a 26-yard field goal which would have given San Diego a 10-0 lead. Instead, Perry broke through to block then kick, then returned it all the way to the Chargers' 28-yard line, setting up a Fritsch field goal which cut San Diego's lead to 7-3. The Chargers made one last stab at victory, but Perry killed that with his last interception of the

Ken Stabler brings Super Bowl experience to Houston offense, while safety Mike Reinfeldt leads defensive charge.



day. Ironically, it was Perry's deflection of Craig Morton's pass to Steve Watson in the end zone which preserved Houston's wild-card victory over Denver, 13-7, the week before.

Brazile is joined in the linebacking unit by three of the most underrated players in the NFL: middle backers Gregg Bingham and Art Stringer and outside backer Ted Washington. Bingham led the team in tackles again with 100 unassisted and 103 assisted. Washington is the Oilers' top blitzter. He recorded eight of the team's 51 sacks. Stringer beat out veteran Steve Kiner, a long-time starter, and provided more quickness for the unit.

Curley Culp is not as quick as he was in his prime, but the 33-year-old nose guard still performed well and forced more fumbles, four, than any other Oiler. Rookie Jesse Baker

OILERS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
75	Baker, Jesse	DE	6-5	165	23	2	Jack 'ville St.
86	Barber, Mike	TE	6-3	235	27	4	La. Tech.
63	Baumgartner, Steve	LB	6-7	245	29	8	Purdue
65	Bethea, Elvin	DE	6-2	255	34	13	N.C. A&T
54	Bingham, Gregg	LB	6-1	230	29	8	Purdue
52	Brazile, Robert	LB	6-4	238	27	6	Jackson St.
00	Burrough, Ken	WR	6-3	210	32	11	Tex. So.
34	Campbell, Earl	RB	5-11	224	25	3	Texas
26	Carpenter, Rob	RB	6-1	214	25	4	Miami (O.)
58	Carter, David	C	6-2	225	27	4	W. Kentucky
88	Caster, Rich	WR	6-5	230	32	11	Jackson St.
42	Clark, Boobie	RB	6-2	237	30	8	B. Cookman
47	Coleman, Ronnie	RB	5-11	198	29	7	Ala. A&M
78	Culp, Curley	MG	6-1	265	34	13	Arizona St.
20	Currier, Bill	DB	6-0	195	25	4	S. Carolina
69	Dorris, Andy	DE	6-4	240	29	8	New Mex. St.
85	Ellender, Richard	WR	5-11	171	23	2	McNeese St.
60	Fisher, Ed	G	6-3	250	31	6	Arizona St.
16	Fritsch, Toni	K	5-7	195	35	9	None
74	Gray, Leon	OT	6-3	260	29	8	Jackson St.
81	Groth, Jeff	WR	5-10	172	23	2	Bowl. Green
36	Hartwig, Carter	DB	6-0	205	24	2	USC
70	Hayman, Conway	G	6-3	270	31	7	Delaware
50	Hunt, Daryl	LB	6-3	220	24	2	Oklahoma
21	Jefferson, Charles	DB	6-0	178	23	2	McNeese St.
84	Johnson, Billy	WR-KR	5-9	170	28	7	Widener
71	Kennard, Ken	MG	6-2	245	26	4	Angelo St.
30	King, Kenny	RB	5-11	203	23	2	Oklahoma
55	Mauck, Carl	C	6-4	250	33	11	S. Illinois
19	Merkens, Guido	QB-WR	6-1	200	25	3	Sam Houston
56	Murphy, Mike	LB	6-2	222	23	2	SW Mo. St.
14	Nielsen, Gifford	QB	6-4	205	26	3	Brig. Young
18	Parsley, Cliff	P	6-1	211	26	4	Okl. St.
32	Perry, Vernon	DB	6-2	211	27	2	Jackson St.
68	Randall, Tom	G	6-5	245	24	3	Iowa St.
64	Reihner, George	OG	6-4	263	25	4	Penn. St.
37	Reinfeldt, Mike	DB	6-2	195	27	3	Wisc. (Mil.)
82	Renfro, Mike	WR	6-0	184	25	3	TCU
87	Rucker, Conrad	TE	6-3	260	26	3	Southern
62	Schuhmacher, John	OG	6-3	275	25	3	USC
12	Stabler, Ken	QB	6-3	210	35	11	Alabama
27	Stemrick, Greg	DB	5-11	185	29	6	Col. St.
67	Stensrud, Mike	DE	6-5	280	24	2	Iowa St.
53	Stringer, Art	LB	6-2	223	26	4	Ball St.
51	Thompson, Ted	LB	6-1	220	27	6	SMU
76	Towns, Morris	OT	6-4	275	29	3	Missouri
41	Towns, Tony	LB	6-0	230	24	1	W. Kentucky
59	Washington, Ted	LB	6-2	245	32	8	Miss. Valley
33	Wilson, J.C.	DB	6-0	177	24	3	Pittsburgh
45	Wilson, Tim	RB	6-3	220	25	4	Maryland
79	Young, Randall	G	6-4	252	26	1	Iowa St.

DRAFTTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
2	Fields, Angelo	OT	6-6	330	22	Mich. St.
2	Skaugstad, Daryle	MG	6-5	260	22	California
3	Smith, Tim	WR	6-2	192	22	Nebraska
4	Combs, Chris	TE	6-3	242	22	New Mexico
5	Corker, John	LB	6-5	220	23	Oklah. St.
7	Bradshaw, Craig	QB	6-5	215	22	Utah St.
8	Bailey, Harold	QB	6-2	195	21	Okl. St.
9	Harris, Ed	RB	5-8	175	22	Bishop
11	Preston, Ed	WR	6-0	190	21	West Ky.
12	Pitts, Wiley	WR	6-1	175	22	Temple



Houston's middle linebacker Greg Bingham (#54) is one of the best in the NFL.



Curley Culp (#78), going strong; Robert Brazile has second home in Pro Bowl.



Tight end Mike Barber should become one of Ken Stabler's favorite targets.

played for Bethea in most passing situations and led the entire AFC in sacks with 15½. The 6-5, 265-pounder has a big future. Andy Dorris, the other end, had 9½ sacks during the season and five more during the play-offs.

Perry and Reinfeldt, both of whom are sound, open-field tacklers, give outstanding support against the run. Perry gets as much individual responsibility on coverage as any strong safety in the league. J.C. Wilson, who intercepted six passes, and Greg Stemrick, are the starting corners.

Punter Cliff Parsley averaged 40.6 yards per punt, but his 31.7 net average was one of the lowest in the AFC. Punt and kickoff returner Richard Ellender finished in the middle of the pack in the AFC, but the Oilers would improve immeasurably in those departments if White Shoes can regain his health and form.

The Oilers sent their first-round draft choice to New England for Gray, so the draft didn't assure them of any starters, but there was an interesting trade which brought safety Jack Tatum from Oakland. Tatum doesn't figure to move either Reinfeldt or Perry out of the lineup, but he is not bad insurance—as long as his controversial book, *They Call Me Assassin*, doesn't make him a marked man for the officials.

The second round of the draft produced huge Angelo Fields, the Michigan Stater who sometimes balloons beyond 350 pounds. If he can control his weight, he could be an eventual plus. The Oilers also gambled with two other high picks, Daryle Skaugstad, a bad-knee defensive tackle from California, and linebacker John Corker of Oklahoma State, who has the double raps of a knee injury and a reported problem attitude.

The reserve strength is mainly with tight end Conrad Rucker, defensive linemen Maynard Stensrud and Ken Kennard, safety Bill Currier, corner Carter Hartwig, and linebacker Daryl Hunt.

CLEVELAND BROWNS Remember the Cardiac Cardinals, the St. Louis team which was coached by Don Coryell and used to win games in the last minutes on heroics by Jim Hart, Mel Grey, Terry Metcalf, and their friends?

Well, the Cleveland Browns are an updated version of the Cardiac Cards. When the Browns beat the Dallas Cowboys in a memorable Monday night game, some fans hung a sign high in the stadium in tribute to the Browns. It read: "The Most Exciting Team in Football." Who's to argue? Here is the evidence:

(1) In the opening game, the Browns were pinned back on their own 16-yard line with 30 seconds left to play, no time outs remaining, and the New York Jets leading, 22-19. Quarterback Brian Sipe completed two passes to Dave Logan for 51 yards and Don Cockroft tied the game with a 35-yard field goal with only four seconds to play. In the overtime, Sipe passed 22 yards to Logan and Cockroft won it with a 27-yarder as only 15 seconds of the extra period remained.

(2) The Browns blew a 20-0 lead against Kansas City and trailed, 24-20, with two minutes to go. Sipe drove his team 76 yards, throwing the winning 21-yard touchdown pass to Reggie Rucker with 52 seconds to play.

(3) Cincinnati led, 20-7, in the third quarter, but Sipe threw three touchdown passes in eight minutes, the winner a 27-yarder to tight end Ozzie Newsome.

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Cockroft, 89 points on 17 field goals and 38 PAT's. 10th
RUSHING—M. Pruitt, 264 carries for 1294 yards, 4.9 avg., 9 TD's. 2nd
PASSING—Sipe, 286 of 535 attempts for 3793 yards, 28 TD's. 9th
RECEIVING—Logan, 59 receptions for 982 yards, 16.6 avg., 7 TD's. 7th
INTERCEPTIONS—Darden, 5 for 125 yards, 25.0 avg., 1 TD. 12th
PUNTING—Evans, 69 punts, 41.2 avg., longest 59 yards. 4th
PUNT RETURNS—Hall, 29 for 295 yards, 10.2 avg. 3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Hall, 50 for 1014 yards, 20.3 avg. 15th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 9 At Kansas City (N)
18 WASHINGTON (N)
23 At Chicago (N)
30 At Minnesota (N)

1980 SCHEDULES

September 7 At New England
15 HOUSTON (N)
21 KANSAS CITY
28 At Tampa Bay
October 5 DENVER
12 At Seattle
19 GREEN BAY
26 PITTSBURGH
November 3 CHICAGO (N)
9 At Baltimore
16 At Pittsburgh
23 CINCINNATI
30 At Houston
December 7 NY JETS
14 At Minnesota
21 At Cincinnati

1979 SCORES

14-7
27-24
—
—
24-29
—
35-51
—
13-10
30-33
28-27
10-31
25-22
12-16

(4) With 4:13 left, Philadelphia led the Browns, 19-10. Sipe then passed five yards for a touchdown to Newsome, and Mike Pruitt ran 24 yards for the lead points in less than 2:30. On the last play of the game, linebacker Charlie Hall intercepted an Eagle pass after Philly had pushed to the Cleveland 11-yard line.

(5) Against Miami, Sipe threw a 34-yard touchdown pass to Newsome to tie the game with 1:21 to play. Then he threw a 39-yarder to Rucker for the winning touchdown in overtime.

Even when they lost, the Browns were often spine tinglers. The Washington Redskins beat them in the final 27 seconds and the Pittsburgh Steelers nipped them in overtime.

Can the Browns keep it up? The answer probably depends upon whether Brian Sipe has arrived as one of the great clutch quarterbacks in the NFL or whether 1979 was just a magnificent year for him. There is no question that Sipe was a serious candidate for the NFL's most valuable player award. Who, even Earl Campbell or Terry Bradshaw, was more valuable to his team?

"With Brian," says Cleveland coach Sam Rutigliano, "we're never out of a game. He will have his ups and downs, but when the pressure is on him, he'll find a way to beat you."

The irony is that, before the season began, the team's star runner, Greg Pruitt, voiced discontent as a Brown and bluntly questioned the team's ability ever to be a major winner with Sipe as its quarterback. In a further irony, Greg Pruitt suffered a knee injury which knocked him out of action early in the season. He had only 62 carries (for 233 yards).

With Greg removed from play, the entire running burden shifted to the "other" Pruitt, Mike. He was up to it and more, finally making good on the rosy predictions the Browns had been making about him for years. Mike accounted for more than half of Cleveland's ball carrying. He finished second to Earl Campbell in AFC ground gaining with 1,294 yards and his per-carry average was three-tenths of a yard better than Campbell's, 4.9 to 4.6. He added another 372

yards on pass receptions. He scored 11 times, 9 touchdowns on the ground.

The Browns uncovered another top offensive star, wide receiver Dave Logan, a huge and gifted athlete who caught 59 passes for 982 yards, seven touchdowns, and a 16.6-yard per-catch average. Tight end Ozzie Newsome was a popular choice for All-Pro teams in just his third pro season. He caught 55 passes for 781 yards, nine touchdowns, and a 14.2-yard average. Rucker, the veteran, had the best average of the three, 17.4, on his 43 catches. He scored six times.

The Browns finished third in the NFL in total offense, trailing only Pittsburgh and Dallas.

Greg Pruitt's pre-season criticism of the Browns also zeroed in on the team's offensive line. They may not be household names, but as a unit under the direction of line coach Rod Humenuik, they were a large part of that high-offensive finish. They did allow the Cleveland quarterbacks to be sacked 43 times, but you have to consider that Sipe alone threw 136 more passes than any other Cleveland quarterback in history so the ratio wasn't that bad.

Center Tom DeLeone, who begins his tenth pro season, was selected for the Pro Bowl for the first time. Guard Cody Risien made several all-rookie teams, and his partner, Robert E. Jackson, is a competent one. Doug Dieken is one of the better tackles in the AFC, and Henry Sheppard, on the other side, played well enough to keep Matt Miller, a high draft choice, on the bench.

Cockroft, who is a large part of the offense, kicked 17 of 29 field goals, and he is at his best in the pressure situations.

Defensively, the Browns got their worst news over the winter when it appeared that Jerry Sherk, the defensive tackle who long has been the anchor of the unit, was through with football due to a serious knee injury and subsequent



Cleveland's outstanding Ozzie Newsome



staph infection. Before he was injured at mid season, Sherk was probably the best defensive player in the NFL. Replacing him will be a massive task for Rutigliano.

Without Sherk, the pass rush nearly evaporates. He accounted for about 40 percent of the rush last year, ringing up a dozen personal sacks despite all his missed games. The next most effective Brown was end Lyle Alzado, the ex-Denver star, who had seven. But three of those came in the opening game. The other end, Jack Gregory, retired. The other tackle is journeyman Mickey Sims. Clearly, the defen-

BROWNS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
80	Adams, Willis	WR	6-2	194	24	2	Houston
77	Alzado, Lyle	DE	6-3	250	31	10	Yankton
52	Ambrose, Dick	LB	6-0	235	27	6	Virginia
36	Anderson, R.	RB	6-1	211	27	2	S. C. State
28	Bolton, Ron	CB	6-2	170	30	9	Norfolk St.
39	Bradford, Jon	RB	6-1	210	27	1	Central St.
91	Bradley, Henry	DT	6-2	260	27	2	Alcorn
49	Burrell, Clinton	CB	6-1	192	24	2	LSU
60	Clapham, Sam	T	6-6	271	24	1	Oklahoma
12	Cockroft, Don	K	6-1	195	35	13	Adams St.
23	Collins, Larry	RB	5-11	189	25	2	Texas A&I
27	Darden, Thom	S	6-2	193	30	8	Michigan
21	Davis, Oliver	CB	6-1	205	26	4	Tenn. St.
54	DeLeone, Tom	C	6-2	248	30	9	Ohio St.
20	Dennison, D.	RB	6-0	205	29	7	Kutztown St.
73	Dieken, Doug	T	6-5	252	31	10	Illinois
92	Dimler, Rich	DT	6-6	260	24	2	USC
8	Evans, J.	P-QB	6-1	197	24	3	N. C. St.
83	Feacher, Ricky	WR	5-10	174	26	5	Miss. Valley
55	Graf, Dave	LB	6-2	221	27	6	Penn St.
81	Gregory, Jack	DE	6-5	255	36	14	Delta St.
59	Hall, Charlie	LB	6-3	235	32	10	Houston
26	Hall, Dino	RB-KR	5-7	165	25	2	Glassboro
35	Hill, Calvin	RB	6-4	227	33	11	Yale
86	Irons, Gerald	LB	6-2	230	33	11	Md.-E. Shore
68	Jackson, R. E.	G	6-5	260	27	6	Duke
56	Jackson, R. L.	LB	6-1	230	26	3	Texas A&M
48	Johnson, L.	CB	5-11	204	23	2	Wisconsin
47	Jones, Ricky	S-LB	6-1	215	25	4	Tuskegee
85	Logan, Dave	WR	6-4	216	26	5	Colorado
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	230	24	3	USC
30	Miller, Cleo	FB	5-11	214	28	7	Pine Bluff
15	Miller, Mark	QB	6-2	176	24	3	Bowl. Green
71	Miller, Matt	T	6-6	270	24	2	Colorado
25	Moriarty, Pat	RB	6-0	195	25	2	Ga. Tech
82	Newsome, Ozzie	TE	6-2	232	24	3	Alabama
99	Perkov, Kent	DE	6-6	262	27	1	S. Diego St.
75	Price, Ernie	DE-DT	6-4	245	30	8	Texas A&I
34	Pruitt, Greg	RB	5-10	190	29	8	Oklahoma
43	Pruitt, Mike	FB	6-0	225	26	5	Purdue
24	Rich, Randy	S	5-10	181	27	4	New Mexico
63	Risien, Cody	G	6-7	255	23	2	Texas A&M
61	Ronan, Jim	DT	6-5	255	24	1	Minnesota
33	Rucker, R.	WR	6-2	190	33	11	Boston U.
74	St. Clair, M.	DE	6-5	253	27	5	Grambling
22	Scott, Clarence	S	6-0	190	31	10	Kansas St.
65	Sheppard, H	T	6-6	263	28	5	SMU
72	Sherk, Jerry	DT	6-4	250	32	11	Okl. St.
78	Sims, Mickey	DT	6-5	270	25	4	S. C. St.
17	Sipe, Brian	QB	6-1	195	31	7	S. Diego St.
88	Smith, John	WR	6-0	175	24	2	Tenn. St.
79	Sullivan, G.	C-T	6-4	250	28	7	Illinois
87	Weathers, C.	TE	6-5	220	24	2	Mississippi
89	Wright, K.	WR-KR	5-9	175	24	3	Memphis St.

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	White, Charles	RB	5-9	183	22	USC
2	Crosby, Cleveland	DE	6-4	251	22	Arizona
3	Odom, Cliff	LB	6-3	219	22	Arlington
4	Crews, Ron	DE	6-3	252	21	Las Vegas
4	McDonald, Paul	QB	6-2	180	22	USC
5	Franks, Elvis	DE	6-3	240	23	Morgan St.
8	Copeland, Jeff	LB	6-2	230	21	Texas Tech
9	DeWalt, Roy	RB	6-2	208	22	Arlington
10	Fidel, Kevin	C	6-4	246	21	S. Diego St.
11	Sales, Roland	RB	6-1	205	22	Arkansas
12	Jackson, Marcus	DT	6-4	254	21	Purdue

Brian Sipe makes the Browns go, but Mike Pruitt rushed for 1,294 yards last season, second-best in AFC.

sive line is what keeps the Browns from being a more serious contender.

The linebacking is much better, with veteran Charley Hall and young Clay Matthews flanking middle man Dick Ambrose. Ambrose beat off the challenge of young Robert L. Jackson (who is valuable as the second inside backer when the Browns shift into a 3-4 set), and ended up the team's top tackler with 137 stops, including 103 solo. Matthews, a first-round pick two years ago, beat out ex-starter Gerald Irons.

The next pass intercepted by free safety Thom Darden will give him the team's all-time



Dave Logan had seven TD catches in '79.

record, with 41. Darden had five last year. He takes them back a long way, averaging 25 yards with his thefts in 1979.

Ex-corner Clarence Scott won the strong-safety job last year after Tony Peters was shipped to Washington. Oliver Davis is considered one of the coming corners in the NFL, but Ron Bolton could be challenged by two good young kids, Clinton Burrell and Lawrence Johnson.

The punter, Johnny Evans, had a reasonable average, but his seven punts inside the 20-yard line were, by far, the lowest total in the league.

The Browns had an interesting draft, if for no other reason than it brings Heisman Trophy winner Charles White of Southern California to Cleveland. The selection of White is an indication that there is some serious concern whether Greg Pruitt can come all the way back from

knee surgery. White doesn't have Pruitt's speed, but he is a gritty, elusive runner who could give balance to Mike Pruitt's running and to the passing attack.

The second-round draftee, Arizona end Cleveland Crosby, will virtually be handed Gregory's old job and asked to sink or swim. It didn't work with Mack Mitchell, one of the team's ranking disappointments of the seventies, but maybe it will with Crosby.

Another defensive lineman with a chance is tackle Ron Crews of Nevada-Las Vegas. He transferred from Notre Dame. If he plays up to his capabilities, he could help.

Also drafted was Paul McDonald, USC's slick, left-handed passing quarterback. That may indicate some lack of faith in Mark Miller, the young backup quarterback who was drafted three years ago.

Virtually a rookie is last year's first-round draft choice, Willis Adams, a swift wide receiver from the University of Houston. He played only long enough to catch one pass for six yards in 1979. He could push Rucker this year, however.

The bench includes ace kick returner Keith Wright, who was injured last season after winning the NFL kickoff-return championship in 1978; linebacker Gerald Irons, sophomore offensive tackles Sam Clapham and Matt Miller, veteran back Calvin Hill, running backs Cleo Miller and Dino Hall, and tough defensive tackle Rich Dimler.

An important new addition is Marty Schottenheimer, the ex-Detroit and New York Giants' assistant, who becomes Rutigliano's first defensive coordinator.

CINCINNATI BENGALS Intransigent. Inflexible. Just plain stubborn. Whatever adjective you want to apply to Paul Brown it adds up to his refusal to change.

"Paul Brown will be the last of us to adapt to the social changes," says a fellow lord of the NFL. Brown has had a near player insurrection on his hands for the last year. His response to it

is: "get tougher." He fired his second coach in two years last December. Then he hired Forrest Gregg.

Gregg is tough, no doubt about it. In Cleveland they said he was far too tough on his players, who were performing above their capabilities anyway. After they fired Gregg, the Browns did far better, as Sam Rutigliano handled the players with a much softer approach.

Soft approaches are for the other guys, as far as Brown is concerned. He deals away those who vocalize their discontent and uses a cold, businesslike approach on those he keeps. Gregg is a hard-eyed Texan, a Hall of Fame offensive tackle who adheres to the discipline used by his old mentor, the late Vince Lombardi. According to those who played under him at Cleveland, he had fewer lighter moments than Lombardi did at Green Bay.

His reputation apparently followed him, because when it was announced that he was quitting as head coach of the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts to take command of the Bengals, Jim LeClair, one of the team's best players, announced that he wanted out. "If I can't be traded," said LeClair, "then I'll retire and take a small-college coaching job."

Defensive back Scott Perry went even further. He made a series of speeches so critical of the Bengals organization and of Brown that they seemed designed to force a trade. If that was so, Perry got his wish. He was traded to the San Francisco 49ers.



Charles White was Browns' No. 1 pick.

Dealing away vocal but valuable players is not something new for Brown. Two of the most valuable Washington Redskins, cornerback Lemar Parrish and defensive end Coy Bacon, were Bengals two years ago. That deal helped the Bengals to consecutive 4-10 won-lost records in 1978 and 1979.

"The biggest surprise of the 1979 season was the Cincinnati Bengals," admitted Brown.

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Johnson, 90 points on 15 TD's... 8th
RUSHING—Johnson, 243 carries for 865 yards, 3.6 avg., 14 TD's... 6th
PASSING—Anderson, 189 of 339 attempts for 2340 yards, 16 TD's... 3rd
RECEIVING—Bass, 58 receptions for 724 yards, 12.5 avg., 3 TD's... 9th
INTERCEPTIONS—Jauron, 6 for 41 yards, 6.8 avg., tie 6th
PUNTING—McInally, 89 punts, 41.3 avg., longest 61 yards... 3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Lusby, 32 for 260 yards, 8.1 avg., 11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Turner, 55 for 1149 yards, 20.9 avg., 11th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

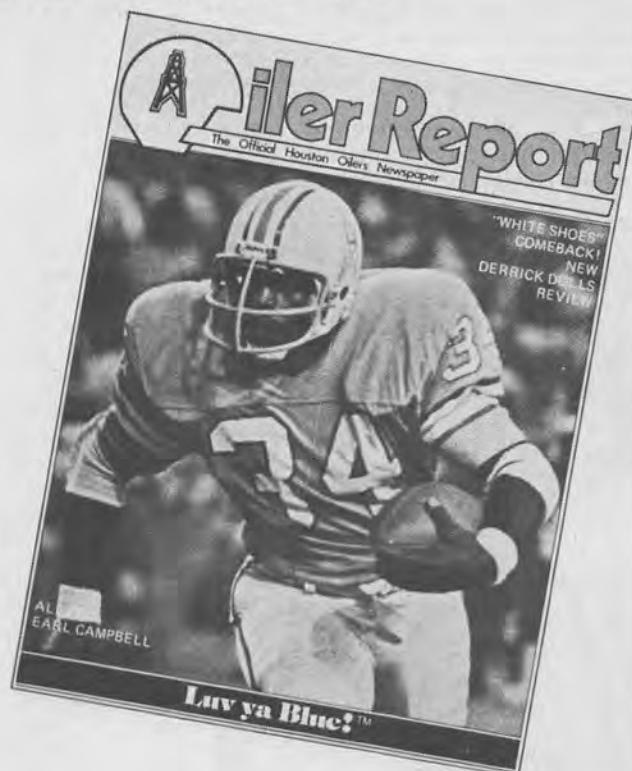
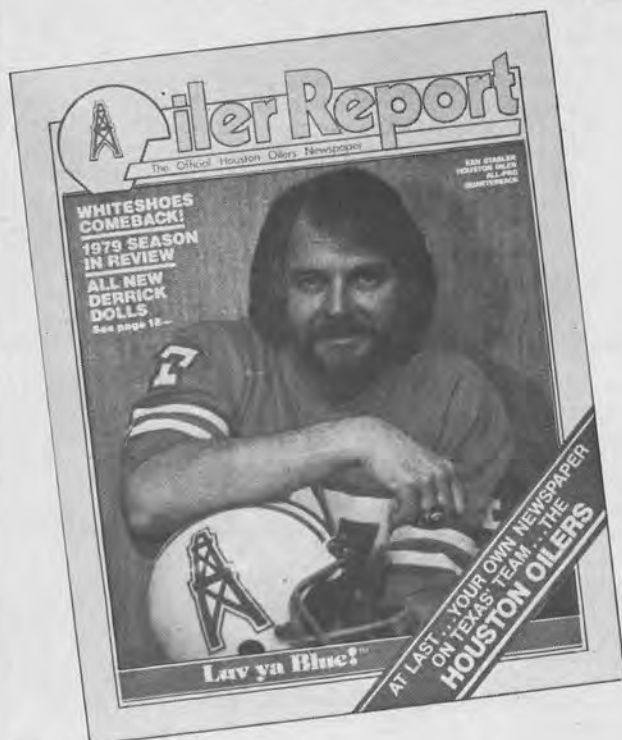
August 9 At Denver (N)
16 CHICAGO (N)
23 At Tampa Bay (N)
30 DETROIT (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

September 7 TAMPA BAY... 17-10
14 At Miami... 27-28
21 PITTSBURGH... 34-10
28 HOUSTON... 27-30
October 5 At Green Bay...
12 At Pittsburgh... 17-37
19 MINNESOTA...
26 At Houston... 21-42
November 2 SAN DIEGO... 24-26
9 At Oakland...
16 BUFFALO... 24-51
23 At Cleveland... 27-28
30 At Kansas City... 7-10
December 7 BALTIMORE... 28-38
14 At Chicago...
21 CLEVELAND... 16-12

1979 SCORES

ANNOUNCING



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"I thought we were going to have a pretty good team." Gregg takes a similar, optimistic view this year. "I think there is talent here to win."

For sure there is on paper. The Bengals can field a starting team with nine first-round draft choices. The entire roster is filled with players other teams would love to have.

"I've said it before and I'll say it again," observes Bum Phillips, the Houston coach. "Cincinnati has as good a collection of talent as any team in the NFL." The problem is to motivate that talent. Neither Bill Johnson nor Homer Rice, the men who succeeded Brown since his retirement from the sidelines, had been able to do it.

Gregg might start with his fullback, Pete Johnson. By most accounts, Johnson had a marvelous season in 1979. He was voted the Bengals' most valuable player by the fans. He ran for 14 touchdowns, and only Earl Campbell, the Houston superstar, exceeded that figure. He caught a pass for another touchdown, to set a Cincinnati season record of 15 touchdowns. He ran for 865 yards, sixth in the AFC. But when Gregg convened the Bengals for the first time in a mini-camp last March, Johnson weighed 274 pounds. Gregg said he wanted Johnson at 235 pounds in time for the season opener.

There was a time when Ken Anderson was considered one of the coming great quarterbacks in the NFL. But Anderson is 31 now and he never has been the big winner everyone expected him to be. Anderson had another good season, statistically, passing for 2,340 yards and 16 touchdowns. But he has trouble closing the sale. To be fair to Anderson, the Bengals' pass protection was the worst in the league. Cincinnati quarterbacks were sacked 63 times last year. Anderson went down 46 times.

Jack Thompson was drafted as Anderson's eventual successor last year in the first round. He played several games, with indifferent results.

The Bengals had another first-round pick and used it to select Charles Alexander, who was seen as the replacement for Archie Griffin, who, as a pro, never has been the zephyr he was at Ohio State. But Alexander averaged only 3.3 yards in 88 carries and none of his runs exceeded 17 yards.

Griffin, meanwhile, averaged 4.9 yards on 140 carries. The hangup with Archie is that he hasn't run for a touchdown since he was a rookie. The running game is almost all Johnson, who had 103 more carries than Griffin, the second-busiest ball carrier.

Gregg hired Jim McNally, whose entire coaching career has been spent in college football, to mend the wounds in the offensive line. McNally's first priority will be to reinforce the pass protection. The tackles are well-respected veteran Vernon Holland and Mike Wilson, who has vast potential. Blair Bush, who made the all-rookie team at center two years ago, was injured last year. Dave Lapham then had to shift from guard to play center. If Gregg continues to use Brown's old messenger guard system, the jobs will be contested by Lapham, Glenn Bujnoch, Max Montoya, Mark Donahue, and Barney Cotton.

Bengals' quarterback Ken Anderson runs for his life; WR Isaac Curtis (#85) in a tangle with Browns' Thom Darden; and veteran safety Dick Jauron (#30)



AFCcentral



Bengal LB Jim LeClair

If the new coach wants to play the new game of home run football, he has the receivers for it. Isaac Curtis averaged 19 yards on his 32 catches and scored eight touchdowns. Bill Brooks was hurt early in the season, but he averaged a startling 26.8 yards on his first eight catches. Don Bass replaced Brooks and led the team with 58 receptions, but his per-catch average was just 12.5 yards. He is more of a possession catcher. Dan Ross was the all-rookie tight end. He caught 41 balls for a 12.6-yard average, but his blocking must become more consistent.

Field goaler Chris Bahr had a fair year with 13 successes in 23 attempts. He had better luck from long distance than he did with the closer stuff. Pat McNally is one of the NFL's better punters.

Gregg did an odd thing right after he took the Cincinnati job. He announced that he was convinced that the 3-4 defense was the defense of the future in pro football and that he would install it with the Bengals. The Bengals used the 3-4 at the start of the 1978 season and it wasn't until they junked it and went back to the four-man line, adding Ross Browner, then a rookie, that they had any success. It was with the 4-3 that they won their final three games in 1978, beating play-off teams Atlanta and Los Angeles and burying Cleveland. The team lined up with Browner and Gary Burley at ends and Wilson Whitley and Eddie Edwards at tackles last year. Burley is the foremost candidate to sit in the 3-4.

Assuming LeClair, who led the team in tackles, reconsiders and plays for the Bengals, he and Glenn Cameron would play the inside backers, with Bo Harris and Reggie Williams, injured last season, on the outside. Even though Williams missed the final four games, he finished second to LeClair in tackles.

With Perry gone, the corners will be Ray Griffin and Louis Breeden, who also is coming off the injury list. The safeties are Marvin Cobb on the strong side and Dick Jauron playing free safety. Jim Browner was the strong-side starter at times during his rookie year.

Vaughn Lusby and Deacon Turner returned punts and kickoffs, respectively, but they didn't do anything which would guarantee them future employment.

The draft produced an instant starter and embryo superstar in offensive tackle Anthony Munoz of Southern California. Except that he has had three knee operations in his past, Munoz probably would have been the first player taken in the entire draft. Munoz, at 6-6 and 300 pounds, is a fine athlete. He once pitched for the Trojans' baseball team.

The draft also produced another offensive lineman, Baylor guard Bill Glass Jr., whose dad played defensive end for Brown in Cleveland. The second pick was Kansas linebacker Kirby Criswell and the third, Rod Horn, Nebraska defensive tackle.

The most notable reserves include defensive tackle Jim White, tight end Don Bass, offensive linemen Max Montoya and Barney Cotton, and linebacker Tom Dinkel.

If White comes in his second season, it could free Ross Browner for an interesting experiment at linebacker.

Cincinnati fullback Pete Johnson (top), running back Archie Griffin (#45), and defensive end Ross Browner (left)



BENGALS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
40	Alexander, C.	RB	6-1	221	23	2	LSU
14	Anderson, K.	QB	6-3	208	31	9	Augustana
10	Bahr, C.	PK	5-10	172	27	4	Penn St.
84	Bass, D.	TE	6-2	218	24	2	Houston
34	Breeden, L.	CB	5-11	187	27	2	N.C. Central
82	Brooks, B.	WR	6-3	202	27	4	Oklahoma
21	Browner, J.	S	6-1	209	25	2	Notre Dame
79	Browner, R.	DE	6-3	261	26	2	Notre Dame
74	Bujnoch, G.	G	6-6	255	27	4	Texas A&M
28	Burk, S.	S	6-2	193	24	2	Okla. St.
67	Burley, G.	DE	6-3	269	28	4	Pittsburgh
58	Bush, B.	C	6-3	252	24	2	Washington
50	Cameron, G.	LB	6-2	230	27	5	Florida
24	Cobb, M.	S	6-0	188	27	5	USC
81	Corbett, J.	TE	6-4	217	25	3	Pittsburgh
70	Cotton, B.	G	6-6	261	24	2	Nebraska
85	Curtis, I.	WR	6-1	192	30	7	San Diego St.
52	Dinkel, T.	LB	6-3	246	24	2	Kansas
66	Donahue, M.	G	6-3	251	24	2	Michigan
73	Edwards, E.	DT	6-5	256	26	3	Miami
45	Griffin, A.	RB	5-8	184	26	4	Ohio St.
44	Griffin, R.	CB	5-10	183	24	2	Ohio St.
53	Harris, B.	LB	6-3	226	27	5	LSU
76	Holland, V.	T	6-5	267	32	9	Tenn. St.
30	Jauron, D.	S	6-0	184	30	7	Yale
54	Johnson, B.	C	6-5	223	34	12	Tennessee
46	Johnson, P.	RB	6-0	259	26	3	Ohio St.
86	Kreider, S.	WR	6-3	192	22	2	Lehigh
59	Kurnick, H.	LB	6-2	219	23	2	Cincinnati
62	Lapham, D.	G	6-4	258	28	6	Syracuse
55	LeClair, J.	LB	6-3	234	30	8	No Dakota
88	Levenseller, M.	WR	6-1	180	24	2	Wash. St.
29	Lusby, V.	CB	5-10	178	24	R	Arkansas
87	McInally, P.	P-WR	6-6	209	27	4	Harvard
72	Mitchell, M.	DE	6-7	253	28	5	Houston
65	Montoya, M.	T	6-5	278	24	2	UCLA
35	Poole, N.	RB	5-8	210	24	2	Louisville
13	Riley, K.	CB	6-0	183	33	11	Florida A&M
89	Ross, D.	TE	6-4	238	23	2	Northeastern
51	Ruud, T.	LB	6-3	226	27	5	Nebraska
12	Thompson, J.	QB	6-3	217	24	2	Wash. St.
22	Turner, D.	RB	5-11	210	25	2	San Diego St.
83	Walker, R.	TE	6-4	235	25	3	UCLA
63	White, M.	DT	6-5	266	23	2	Albany St.
75	Whitley, W.	DT	6-3	265	25	3	Houston
57	Williams, R.	LB	6-0	228	26	4	Dartmouth
77	Wilson, M.	T	6-5	280	25	2	Georgia

DRAFTTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Munoz, Anthony	T	6-5	287	21	USC
2	Criswell, Kirby	LB	6-5	232	22	Kansas
3	Horn, Rod	DT	6-4	268	22	Nebraska
4	Glass, Bill	G	6-4	264	21	Baylor
5	Hicks, Bryan	DB	6-0	194	23	McNeese St.
6	Heath, Jo Jo	DB	5-10	178	22	Pittsburgh
6	Melontree, Andrew	DE	6-4	225	22	Baylor
7	Simpkins, Ron	LB	6-1	230	23	Michigan
7	Johnson, Gary Don	DT	6-4	260	23	Baylor
8	Lyles, Mark	RB	6-3	229	23	Florida St.
9	Bright, Greg	DB	6-0	200	23	Morehead St.
10	Vitiello, Sandro	K	6-3	200	22	Massachusetts
11	Alexis, Alton	WR	6-0	180	23	Tulane
12	Wright, Mike	QB	6-3	210	24	Vanderbilt

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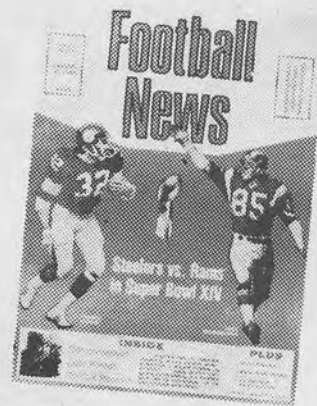
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A black and white portrait of a man with dark hair, wearing a light-colored dress shirt and a dark tie. He is smiling and looking off-camera to his right. The background is dark and out of focus.

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AFCeast

NEW YORK JETS The battle cry of the New York Jets this season is "Rally 'Round Richard."

The Jets don't have much choice anymore. The two-quarterback quandry is no more. Richard Todd is the sole proprietor of the position now that Matt Robinson, his erstwhile rival, has been traded to Denver for a bundle of draft choices. With Richard the only quarterback of reputation on the premises, the Jets hope the division among the players and the fans over who should be playing will evaporate.

"I'm sure there were some guys who wanted me to be playing and I'm just as sure there were some guys who wanted Matt," admits Todd.

There was also a division among the coaches. That's why John Idzik is now the quarterback coach in Baltimore, instead of New York. Idzik was a Todd man and disputed with head coach Walt Michaels when Michaels made his decision before last year's opener that Robinson would be his starter.

The decision was hardly put into operation, since Robinson got hurt a few days before the opener and Todd had to play. He never relinquished the job after that, but Robinson's excellent relief work in the 1978 season was remembered vividly by his supporters.

Todd is not a quarterback who takes criticism lightly. The booing and derisive signs directed at him in Shea Stadium, his home park, affected him heavily.

"He hated what he saw and heard," says full-back Clark Gaines. "It was terrible. You can hear those fans on the field, believe me, and it got so bad at one time that they would boo Richard in the warmups and give Matt an ovation as soon as he picked up a ball."

"Of course it bothered me," says Todd, who reacted to the fans at first, but later tried to be philosophical. How the fans treat the sensitive quarterback now could be influenced by what the Jets did in their final three games last December.

After a debacle of a defeat on a Monday night game in Seattle ("A disgrace," is how Howard Cosell described it, and he couldn't be knocked for lack of accuracy), the Jets rallied with startling success. They rapped Baltimore, 30-17, then knocked New England out of play-off contention, 27-26, and closed the year by doing something few teams do: beat Miami in the Orange Bowl. The score was 27-24.

The streak gave the Jets the same won-lost record, 8-8, with which they finished the 1978 season, and there was a lot of carry-over value. For instance, it made the Robinson trade far less controversial than it might have been ordinarily.

"This year, we'll have a much better attitude," claims veteran safety Shafer Suggs. "I think we came into the last season far too complacent. A lot of the players think we can finish 12-4 with a little luck."

To finish 12-4, or anything resembling that record, the Jets will need more than luck. They will need something with which Suggs is intimately connected: pass defense. To be precise, vastly improved pass defense. New

The Jets' hopes for an Eastern championship rest with Richard Todd.

York was last in the NFL in that category last season. The opposition scored 31 passing touchdowns against the Jets. It didn't get much better even when the team was on its season-ending streak. The Jets yielded 67 points in those three victories.

The Jets' strength is in its running game, a large part of which is the offensive line. New York won the NFL ground-gaining championship with 2,646 yards. Gaines ran for 905 yards and a 4.9-yard per-carry average. Scott Dierking ran for 767, Kevin Long for 442. Tommy Newton carried the ball only 37 times, but scored on one of every six carries. Those fellows do not resemble Earl Campbell, O.J. Anderson, Walter Payton, Tony Dorsett, or any of the other premier NFL ball carriers.

But it is a lot easier to gain yardage when you have a pair of tackles such as Marvin Powell and Chris Ward in front of you. Powell and Ward were back-to-back first-round draft choices in Michaels' first two years as coach. Powell and Ward are naturals, and guard Randy Rasmusen has been quietly efficient since the team's Super Bowl season, 12 years ago, but the development of center Joe Fields and guard Dan Alexander, who was a college defensive lineman, is a credit to offensive line coach Bob Fry.

Yet, even with a top offensive line, the Jets aren't going to get along with plow-horse running back indefinitely.

"I hope we use those draft choices we got for Matt Robinson to draft a speed burner, either a back or a wide receiver, like Wesley (Walker)," said Todd, after the trade.

Little did Richard know. The Jets traded both their first-round draft choices to San Francisco, for the second pick, overall, in the first round of the draft. With it, they selected Lam Jones, Texas's brilliant wide receiver. That maneuver gives them two world-class sprinters at the wide receiver positions. In addition, the Jets also drafted Ralph Clayton of Michigan, a 9.5 sprinter whom they can use as a slot man in

special situations, forcing single coverage on Walker, Jones, and Clayton. If Todd, behind the protection of Ward, Powell, and their colleagues, can get the ball to his racehorse receivers, the Jets will be able to challenge any defense.

Todd had to do without Walker after the first month of the season. It wasn't easy. Before the fleet wide receiver was injured, he was averaging 24.7 yards per catch and had scored five touchdowns. Derrick Gaffney ended up leading the team in receptions with 32, for a 16.7-yard average, and fill-in Bobby Jones averaged 19.9 yards on his 18 catches. But each scored only one touchdown.

The Jets used a lot of young Mickey Schuler to balance Jerome Barkum at tight end. Barkum caught 27 passes for four touchdowns, but Schuler, the blocking half of the combination, caught three touchdowns and averaged almost the same per catch as Barkum, 14.1 yards to 14.9.

Defensively, the plan is to allow the Jets' youngsters to ferment. New York was the youngest team in pro football last season. Many of the kids were associated with the defensive unit. At one time there were six rookie defensive starters: linebackers Stan Blinka and Mike McKibben, corners Johnny Lynn and Donald Dykes, and linemen Marty Lyons and Mark Gastineau. The stickout was Blinka, a surprise from Sam Houston State. A rugged hitter, Blinka led the team in tackles from his middle linebacker position, making 104 unassisted stops.

Lyons, the first-round draft choice, was an important addition as the Jets went back to a four-man line from the 3-4 they had used the season before. Gastineau, a raw but skilled youngster on whom Michaels gambled in the second round, got just a few starts, but if the Jets are to mount a consistent pass rush, Mark is the most likely quarterback assaulter.

Lynn suffered, like most rookie corners, particularly ones who are not aided by a strong pass rush. Dykes was in and out of the lineup as a corner, but he blocked two punts and an extra point as a special teams' ace.

McKibben was picked up as a free agent after Bob Martin was cashiered following a clash with Michaels. The coaches gave up on Mark Merrill.

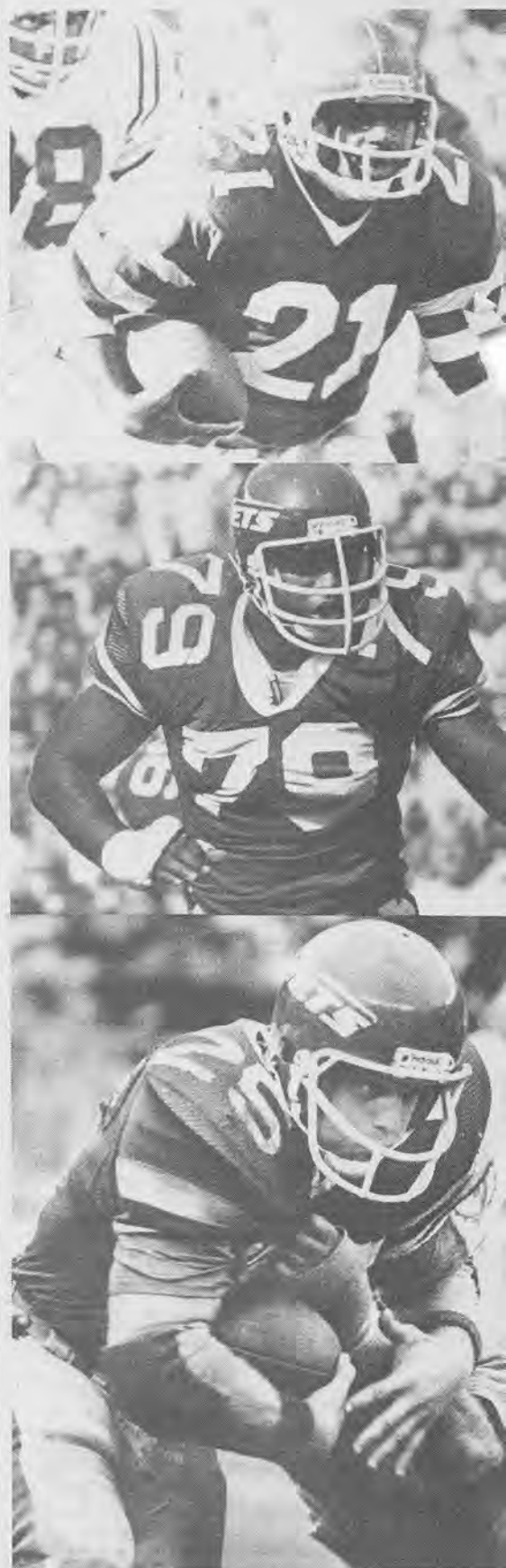
The veterans to whom the kids look for leadership are outside backer Greg Buttle, one of the NFL's best, and Joe Klecko, who switched from end to tackle.

Michaels plans a major switch in the defensive line. Lyons, whom many scouts felt was better suited to play tackle in the pros, will be moved inside to that position. Klecko, the most effective Jet pass rusher when he played end in 1978, goes back to his old spot.

Other experienced defenders are Suggs at strong safety, Bobby Jackson at corner, Abdul Salaam at tackle, and Lawrence Pillers at end.

The Jets are fairly well protected in the specialties. Bruce Harper, who is a spot runner and receiver, does a sound job returning punts

Clark Gaines (top) was the Jets' leading rusher thanks largely to the blocking of Marvin Powell (#79). Scott Dierking ran for 767 yards for NY.



1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Long, 42 points on 7 TD's... 35th
RUSHING—Gaines, 186 carries for 905 yards, 4.9 avg... 4th
PASSING—Todd, 171 of 334 attempts for 2660 yards, 16 TD's... 12th
RECEIVING—Gaffney, 32 receptions for 534 yards, 16.7 avg... 1 TD... 47th
INTERCEPTIONS—Owens, 6 for 41 yards, 6.8 avg... tie 6th
PUNTING—Ramsey, 73 punts, 40.8 avg... longest 64 yards... 5th
PUNT RETURNS—Harper, 33 for 290 yards... 8.8 avg... 8th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Harper, 55 for 1158 yards, 21.1 avg... 9th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 10 CHICAGO (N)
15 At Philadelphia (N)
23 At Pittsburgh (N)
30 At New York Giants (N)

1980 SCHEDULE 1979 SCORES

September	7 BALTIMORE	30-17
	14 At Buffalo	31-46
	21 SAN FRANCISCO	
	28 At Baltimore	8-10
October	5 NEW ENGLAND	27-26
	12 At Atlanta	
	19 SEATTLE	7-30
	27 MIAMI (N)	33-27
November	2 At New England	3-56
	9 BUFFALO	12-14
	16 At Denver	
	23 HOUSTON	24-27
	30 At Los Angeles	
December	7 At Cleveland	22-25
	14 NEW ORLEANS	
	20 At Miami	27-24

and kickoffs. He had the longest touchdown play of the season for the club, 72 yards on a pass reception.

When place-kicker Pat Leahy got hurt, Dave Jacobs, a rookie from Syracuse, was picked up and closed well. Leahy is one of the league's better kickers, but Jacobs might have the confidence to give him an argument. Punter Chuck Ramsey averaged better than 40 yards a punt and had the best percentage in putting the ball out of bounds within the 20-yard line.

The rest of the draft brought defensive help. Darrol Ray, a tough, smart player from Okla-

JETS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
60	Alexander, Dan	G	6-4	255	25	4	LSU
83	Barkum, Jerome	TE	6-4	225	30	9	Jackson St.
59	Beamson, Willie	LB	6-3	240	24	1	Boise St.
46	Bennett, Woody	RB	6-3	217	25	2	Miami
54	Blinka, Stan	LB	6-2	230	23	2	Sam Houston
51	Buttle, Greg	LB	6-3	232	26	5	Penn. St.
55	Crosby, Ron	LB	6-3	225	25	3	Penn. St.
68	Cunningham, Eric	G	6-3	257	23	2	Penn. St.
84	Darby, Paul	WR	5-10	192	24	2	S.W. Tex. St.
25	Dierking, Scott	RB	5-10	215	25	4	Purdue
62	Dulek, Bill	G	6-4	257	24	1	Michigan
26	Dykes, Donald	CB	5-11	188	25	2	SE La.
80	Farmer, Roger	WR	6-3	195	25	2	Baker
65	Fields, Joe	C	6-2	253	27	6	Widener
81	Gaffney, Derrick	WR	6-1	180	25	3	Florida
21	Gaines, Clark	RB	6-1	209	26	5	Wake Forest
99	Gastineau, Mark	DE	6-5	257	24	2	E. Cent. Okla.
42	Harper, Bruce	RB	5-8	177	25	4	Kutztown
40	Jackson, Bobby	CB	5-9	175	24	3	Florida St.
1	Jacobs, Dave	K	5-7	151	23	2	Syracuse
89	Jones, Bobby	WR	5-11	180	25	3	None
56	Keller, Larry	LB	6-2	225	27	4	Houston
57	Kirchbaum, Kelly	LB	6-2	240	23	1	Kentucky
73	Klecko, Joe	DT	6-3	262	27	4	Temple
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6-0	195	29	7	St. Louis
33	Long, Kevin	FB	6-1	214	25	4	S. Carolina
29	Lynn, Johnny	CB	6-0	190	24	2	UCLA
93	Lyons, Marty	DE	6-5	245	23	2	Alabama
67	McGlasson, Ed	C	6-4	248	24	2	Youngstown
53	McKibben, Mike	LB	6-3	228	24	2	Kent St.
37	Moresco, Tim	S	6-0	180	26	4	Syracuse
44	Newton, Tom	FB	6-0	213	26	4	California
31	Paige, Barrett	RB	6-3	218	25	1	Central St.
11	Penrose, Craig	QB	6-3	205	27	5	S. Diego St.
76	Pillers, Lawrence	DE	6-3	260	28	5	Alcorn St.
20	Powell, Darnell	RB	6-0	184	26	3	Chattanooga
79	Powell, Marvin	T	6-5	268	25	4	USC
86	Raba, Bob	TE	6-1	225	25	4	Maryland
15	Ramsey, Chuck	P	6-2	189	28	4	Wake Forest
66	Rasmussen, Randy	G	6-2	255	35	14	Kearney St.
61	Roman, John	T	6-4	251	28	5	Idaho St.
4	Ryan, Pat	QB	6-3	205	25	3	Tennessee
74	Salaam, Abdul	DT	6-3	260	27	5	Kent St.
48	Schroy, Ken	S	6-2	196	28	4	Maryland
82	Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-3	229	24	3	Penn. St.
23	Suggs, Shafer	SS	6-1	204	27	5	Ball St.
50	Sullivan, John	LB	6-1	221	24	2	Illinois
14	Todd, Richard	QB	6-2	203	27	5	Alabama
70	Waldemore, Stan	C	6-4	257	25	3	Nebraska
85	Walker, Wesley	WR	6-0	175	25	4	California
72	Ward, Chris	T	6-3	270	25	3	Ohio St.
71	Winkel, Bob	DE	6-4	246	25	2	Kentucky

DRAFTTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Jones, Lam	WR	5-11	180	22	Texas
2	Ray, Darrol	S	6-1	206	22	Oklahoma
2	Clayton, Ralph	RB	6-3	216	22	Michigan
3	Mehl, Lance	LB	6-3	225	22	Penn. St.
4	Johnson, Jesse	DB	6-2	185	23	Colorado
5	Zidd, Jim	LB	6-1	232	23	Kansas
6	Visger, George	DE	6-4	250	22	Colorado
6	Schremp, Tom	DE	6-4	250	23	Wisconsin
7	Batton, Bob	RB	5-11	190	23	Las Vegas
7	Leverett, Ben	RB	6-2	200	24	B.-Cookman
8	Dziama, Jeff	LB	6-1	235	22	Boston Col.
9	Peters, Joe	DT	6-5	265	23	Ariz. St.
10	Bingham, Guy	C	6-3	255	22	Montana
11	Zachery, James	LB	6-2	250	22	Texas A&M
12	Dumars, David	DB	5-10	180	23	NE La.



Kevin Long (#33) led the Jets with seven touchdowns; Randy Rasmussen (#66) is last link to '69 Super Bowl; Wesley Walker (right) and No. 1 draftee, Lam Jones (above), are two of the fastest receivers in NFL.

homa, could fill the free-safety vacancy created by the trade of Burgess Owens to Oakland. The trade, which brought the Jets a mere sixth-round draft choice, was a controversial one, but, in truth, the veteran was instrumental in losing at least two games for the team last season. His limitations caused Michaels to play simplified defenses which were easily solved by opposing quarterbacks.

There is also Lance Mehl, a smart, hard-hitting linebacker from Penn State who is a bit shy of speed; defensive back Jesse Johnson of Colorado; another linebacker, Jim Zidd of Kansas, and two linemen, George Visger of Colorado and Tom Schremp of Wisconsin.



MIAMI DOLPHINS The Miami Dolphins won their first division championship since 1974 last season, but it was far more an indictment of the AFC East than it was a signal of a Dolphin renaissance. The Dolphins didn't even have the opportunity to kid themselves. Pittsburgh beat them, 34-14, in the first round of the play-offs. The chasm between the teams was much more than 20 points.

"They manhandled us," admitted Bob Kuechenberg the veteran offensive lineman. "It was a lesson in quality football." Miami doesn't play much quality football anymore. The Dolphins play "get-by" football. In the AFC East last year, it was good enough.

Don Shula, Miami's realist coach, understands that it won't be like that forever, in fact may not be like that this season. "The play-off loss was an indication of how far we have to go to win it," said Shula, meaning the Super Bowl, which was last theirs in January, 1974. He promises there will be changes in 1980. Shula doesn't have much choice. This is retooling time for his team.

Shula bought some time last season by signing Larry Csonka, the power fullback around whom the Super Bowl offenses of the early seventies revolved. The 1979 offense revolved around Csonka, intentionally or not. Csonka, a wealthy embarrassment during his two years in the now defunct World Football League and then two more with the New York Giants, regained some of his pride in Miami.

"I've got my Hunkie back," said Shula of his fellow Hungarian-American when Csonka signed as a free agent. Csonka responded by losing more than 20 pounds and punishing his body and psyche to get back into shape. He also took an enormous pay cut to play with his old team. Csonka gained 837 yards. That was less than half of Earl Campbell's production, but he got yardage when the Dolphins needed it desperately and the 12 touchdowns he scored often were in vital situations.

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—von Schamann, 99 points on 21 field goals and 36 PAT's... 6th
RUSHING—Csonka, 220 carries for 837 yards, 3.8 avg., 12 TD's... 7th
PASSING—Griese, 176 of 310 attempts for 2160 yards, 14 TD's... 10th
RECEIVING—Moore, 48 receptions for 840 yards, 17.5 avg., 6 TD's... 19th
INTERCEPTIONS—Colzie, 5 for 86 yards, 17.2 avg., 15th
PUNTING—Roberts, 69 punts, 40.2 avg., longest 68 yards... 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Nathan, 28 for 306 yards, 10.9 avg., 1 TD... 1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Nathan, 45 for 1016 yards, 22.6 avg., 4th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 10 DETROIT
18 At Seattle (N)
23 MINNESOTA (N)
29 At New Orleans (N)

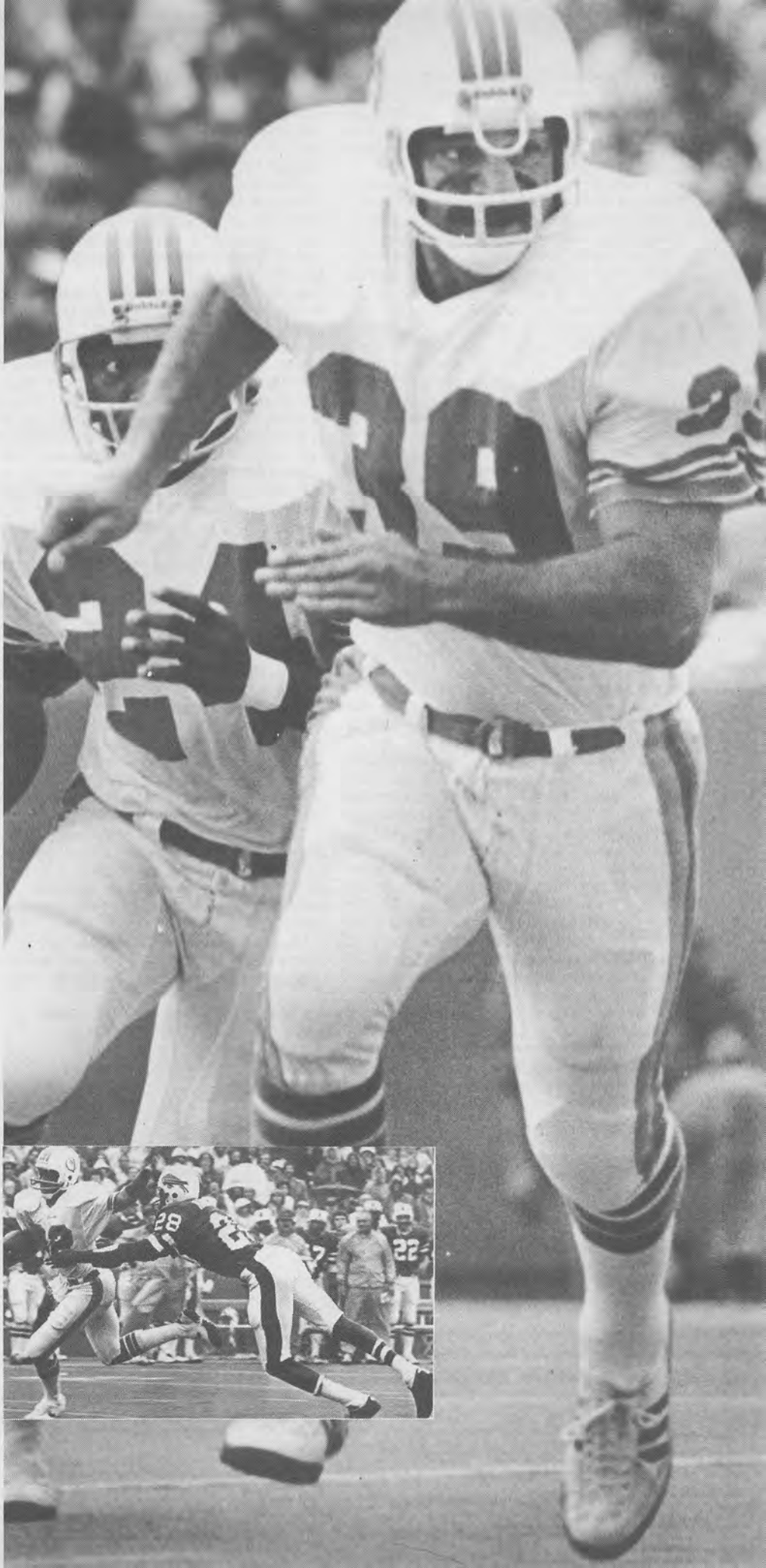
1980 SCHEDULE

September	7 At Buffalo	9-7
	14 CINCINNATI	—
	21 At Atlanta	—
	28 NEW ORLEANS	—
October	5 BALTIMORE	19-0
	12 At New England	13-28
	19 BUFFALO	17-7
	27 At NY Jets (N)	27-33
November	2 At Oakland	3-13
	9 At Los Angeles	—
	16 SAN FRANCISCO	—
	20 SAN DIEGO (N)	—
	30 At Pittsburgh	—
December	8 NEW ENGLAND (N)	39-24
	14 At Baltimore	28-24
	20 NY JETS	24-27

1979 SCORES

September	7 At Buffalo	9-7
	14 CINCINNATI	—
	21 At Atlanta	—
	28 NEW ORLEANS	—
October	5 BALTIMORE	19-0
	12 At New England	13-28
	19 BUFFALO	17-7
	27 At NY Jets (N)	27-33
November	2 At Oakland	3-13
	9 At Los Angeles	—
	16 SAN FRANCISCO	—
	20 SAN DIEGO (N)	—
	30 At Pittsburgh	—
December	8 NEW ENGLAND (N)	39-24
	14 At Baltimore	28-24
	20 NY JETS	24-27

Larry Csonka, rejuvenated Dolphin FB, leads Del Williams; Duriel Harris (inset) is fleet receiver.



In the play-off game, he was the Pittsburgh defensive game plan. "By stopping Csonka, you stop their running game," explained Joe Greene of the Steelers. "When you stop their running game, you force them into passing situations they don't want to get into."

That's a big truth. Miami is not prepared to play the kind of offensive football which most of the successful NFL teams are playing these days. Bob Griese suffered the worst season of his pro career. Don't look at the statistics for confirmation. The confirmation comes from the complaints of his teammates, most of them private complaints, but some public.

"He's wasting the two of us," griped wide receiver Duriel Harris, in reference to Griese's inability to get the ball far downfield to Nat Moore or Harris. A big passing day for Griese is 125 yards or so, but this is the era of the 300-yard game. He had only one game all season in which he put two good halves together. His best times came after he was benched, for the first time in his career, and came in to relieve Don Strock.

Most of the younger players wanted Strock as the starter from the early part of the season. "I want to be No. 1," says Strock, who has been Griese's backup for five seasons. Significantly, Shula threw open the quarterback job in training camp for the first time.

"Two people were in the picture," he explained. "That was the first time that happened to me since I've been down here in Miami." Griese is 35. His arm, never strong, is far weaker than it was at his peak, when ball-control offense was the desired tactic. Strock, 29, has had some fine moments, but not enough of them.

It would not be a staggering surprise if Shula decided to start all over and go with Guy Benjamin, the ex-Stanford All-America who has thrown the ball only 12 times in two seasons as a pro. "He has Griese's quiet, leadership-type ability," says Shula.

Certainly the offensive burden can't be on Csonka again. He is 34 now, which is handicap enough for a running back. The running burden can't be upon him either, since that is one of the things which caused Delvin Williams's puzzling decline last year, at least in the opinion of Williams. Williams declined from 1,258 yards in 1978 to 703 last year.

"I missed 13 quarters of football, which had a lot to do with it," says Williams. "That, plus the addition of Larry Csonka. I had about half the carries I did the previous year. Another thing

was the stagnation of the offense early in the season."

Some of the reason for that stagnation was the advanced state of decay of the offensive line. Larry Little, once an All-Pro guard, is now trying to hang on as a third guard. Tackle Mike Current retired. Jim Langer, one of the finest centers of all time, demanded to be traded to Minnesota and gave Shula a year of grace to bring about such a deal, but the grace period was shortened when Langer tore up a knee early in the season.

In addition, Kuechenberg, a fine guard, played out of position at tackle. Shula switched him back and is teaming him with Ed Newman, best of the surviving linemen. Mark Dennard, a rookie, replaced Langer after Jim's injury and performed acceptably. The tackle positions probably will be taken by two kids. The jobs probably will be contested among Eric Laakso and two second-year players, Cleveland Green and Jon Geisler. Geisler was Miami's first-round draft choice a year ago.

Harris spoke some truth when he suggested that he and Moore were being wasted. Nat averaged 17.5 yards on his 48 catches and Duriel averaged 19 yards on his 42 receptions. Moore caught six touchdown passes and Harris three.

Both quarterbacks suffered badly from the absence of a first-rate tight end. When Andre Tillman missed the season due to injury, Bruce Hardy did most of the playing. Not only was he far from the caliber of a top NFL tight end, but he looked downright confused in the play-offs.

Shula took one major risk on offense, waiving veteran place-kicker Garo Yepremian before the season started in favor of rookie Uwe Von Schamann. Von Schamann did well, succeeding on 21 of 29 field goal attempts. He didn't do much to improve Miami's kickoff coverage, the worst in the AFC.

Defensively, the outlook is more optimistic. Last January, three Dolphins were picked for the AFC's Pro Bowl squad and all three were defenders: nose tackle Bob Baumhower, linebacker Kim Bokamper, and free safety Tim Foley.

Miami allowed fewer points than any AFC team except San Diego. They finished second in the NFL in defense against the run. But in the

Nat Moore led Miami with 48 catches and 6 TD's; Don Strock (below) and Bob Griese (top right) will compete for QB post with Dolphins.



DOLPHINS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
78	Barisich, C.	DT	6-4	255	29	8	Princeton
73	Baumhower, B.	DT	6-5	258	25	4	Alabama
7	Benjamin, G.	QB	6-3	210	25	3	Stanford
46	Bessilleu, D.	S	6-1	199	24	2	Ge. Tech
75	Bettors, D.	DE	6-7	250	24	3	Reno
47	Blackwood, G.	S	6-0	183	23	2	Texas
58	Bokamper, K.	LB	6-6	245	26	4	San Jose St.
81	Cefalo, J.	WR	5-11	190	24	3	Penn St
51	Chambers, R.	LB	6-1	220	27	6	Tulane
20	Coizie, N.	S	6-2	190	27	6	Ohio St.
39	Csonka, L.	FB	6-3	235	34	12	Syracuse
27	Davis, G.	HB	5-10	202	26	5	Cal Poly-SLO
83	Den Herder, V.	DE	6-6	252	32	10	Cent. Iowa
63	Dennard, M.	C	6-1	250	25	2	Texas A&M
77	Duhe, A.J.	DE	6-4	247	25	4	LSU
25	Foley, T.	SS	6-2	194	32	10	Purdue
79	Giesler, J.	T	6-3	265	24	2	Michigan
50	Gordon, L.	LB	6-4	230	26	5	Arizona St.
61	Green, C.	T	6-3	265	23	2	Southern
12	Griese, B.	QB	6-1	190	35	14	Purdue
84	Hardy, B.	TE	6-4	235	24	3	Arizona St.
82	Harris, D.	WR	5-11	180	26	5	New Mex. St.
36	Howell, S.	FB	6-2	222	24	2	Baylor
37	Kozlowski, M.	S	6-0	187	24	2	Colorado
67	Kuechenberg, B.	G-T	6-2	255	33	11	Notre Dame
68	Laakso, E.	T-G	6-4	265	24	3	Tulane
52	Land, M.	LB	6-3	243	25	2	Michigan St.
86	Lee, R.	TE	6-3	242	24	2	Baylor
66	Little, L.	G-T	6-1	265	35	14	B. Cookman
53	Matheson, B.	LB	6-4	235	36	14	Duke
89	Moore, N.	WR	5-9	180	29	7	Florida
22	Nathan, T.	HB	6-0	201	24	2	Alabama
64	Newman, E.	G	6-2	245	29	8	Duke
54	Ortega, R.	LB	6-2	220	27	6	Florida
55	Rhone, E.	LB	6-2	222	27	5	Henderson
4	Roberts, G.	P	6-0	172	25	3	Va. Tech
48	Small, G.	CB	5-11	187	24	3	San Jose St.
10	Strock, D.	QB	6-5	220	30	7	Va. Tech
45	Taylor, E.	CB	6-0	175	27	6	Memphis St.
41	Thomas, N.	CB	5-11	175	26	4	So. Miss.
87	Tillman, A.	TE	6-5	230	28	5	Texas Tech
60	Toews, J.	G	6-3	255	23	2	Washington
38	Torrey, B.	FB	6-3	232	23	2	Penn St.
56	Towle, S.	LB	6-2	233	27	6	Kansas
5	von Schamann, U.	K	6-0	200	24	2	Oklahoma
24	Williams, D.	HB	6-0	197	29	7	Kansas

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	McNeal, Don	CB	5-11	190	22	Alabama
2	Stephenson, Dwight	C	6-2	252	22	Alabama
3	Barnett, Bill	DE	6-4	252	22	Nebraska
4	Bailey, Elmer	WR	6-0	196	21	Minnesota
6	Byrd, Eugene	WR	6-0	185	22	Michigan St.
7	Rose, Joe	TE	6-3	228	22	California
8	Allen, Jeff	CB	5-11	190	21	Cal-Davis
9	Woodley, Dave	QB	6-2	183	22	LSU
8	Goodspeed, Mark	T	6-5	270	22	Nebraska
10	Lantz, Doug	C	6-2	250	21	Miami (Ohio)
10	Long, Ben	LB	6-1	220	21	So. Dakota
11	Driscoll, Phil	DE	6-5	265	21	Mankato St.
12	Stone, Chuck	G	6-2	255	22	N.C. St.



play-off disaster at Pittsburgh, no one looked at those statistics.

"Our offensive line manhandled Miami's three-man line," remarked Steeler quarterback Terry Bradshaw. He had evidence to back him up. The Steelers scored the first three times they had possession.

That was disturbing for the Dolphins, not only for that particular game but for the future. The team's defensive coordinator, Bill Arnsparger, thought he had upgraded his line when big Doug Betters beat out A.J. Duhe, the heralded rookie defensive end of three years ago. Baumhower had a Pro Bowl year with 146 tackles. Veteran end Vern den Herder led the pass rush with nine sacks. Betters had eight.

The strength of the defensive unit is the line-backing, with Bokamper on the left side and Larry Gordon, another with All-Pro potential, on the right. Steve Towle has been exposed as a mite slow on the inside, but his partner, Rusty Chambers, is beginning to arrive as a players' player in the NFL. Chambers led the team in tackles with 178. Ralph Ortega will challenge for Towle's job.

The young cornerbacks, Gerald Small and Norris Thomas, are aggressive, quick types who keep improving. Foley lost two strong-side safety partners, Charlie Babb and Lyle Blackwood, via injury. Ex-Raider Neal Colzie was a major disappointment in that spot.

Punter George Roberts finished eighth among AFC competition, but in the important category of net average he finished second.

The draft produced at least one probable starter, safety Don McNeal of Alabama, who most likely will be teamed with Foley. The second-round pick, Dwight Stephenson, McNeal's Alabama teammate, has a good chance to replace Dennard at center. Stephenson is not big—just slightly over 230 pounds—but many scouts thought he had the best techniques of the many excellent centers in this year's draft. After the Alabamans came Nebraska defensive lineman Bill Barnett and two receivers, Minnesota's Elmer Bailey and Michigan State's swift, skinny, All-Big 10 selection, Eugene Byrd.

The bench includes the all-around skills of running back Gary Davis; wide receiver Jimmy Cefalo; defensive lineman Carl Barisich; Tony Nathan, who finished second in the AFC in punt returns as a rookie; tight end Ron Lee; fullbacks Steve Howell and Bob Torrey; defensive back Don Bessillieu; and offensive tackle Jeff Toews, the second-round draftee of last year who was disappointing as a rookie.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS Every year in New England they hold what is the football equivalent to a coroner's inquest.

The Patriots are the "how come?" team of the NFL. How come a team with that much talent doesn't make the play-offs every year? How come they beat a good team one week and lose to a horrible team a week later? How come they can't win the games they can't afford to lose?

Even Ron Erhardt, the rookie coach, was searching for answers late last season. He seemed to suggest his club chokes, which is not your standard admission by a football coach. "Maybe we just don't have the character," Erhardt mused on a plane trip back from Denver, where the Pats had been incinerated, 45-10.



Steve Grogan had 28 TD passes for Pats.

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Smith, 115 points on 23 field goals and 46 PAT's... 1st
 RUSHING—Cunningham, 159 carries for 563 yards, 3.5 avg., 5 TD's... 17th
 PASSING—Grogan, 206 of 423 attempts for 3286 yards, 28 TD's... 5th
 RECEIVING—Jackson, 45 receptions for 1013 yards, 22.5 avg., 7 TD's... 23rd
 INTERCEPTIONS—Clayborn, 5 for 56 yards, 11.2 avg., 17th
 PUNTING—Hare, 83 punts, 36.6 avg., longest 58 yards... 13th
 PUNT RETURNS—Morgan, 29 for 289 yards, 10.0 avg., 1 TD... 5th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Clark, 37 for 816 yards, 22.1 avg., 6th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 11 At Los Angeles (N)
 16 At Oakland (N)
 24 PHILADELPHIA
 29 At Seattle

1980 SCHEDULE

September	7 CLEVELAND	10-45
	14 ATLANTA	26-27
	21 At Seattle	28-13
	29 DENVER (N)	26-31
October	5 At NY Jets	26-6
	12 MIAMI	56-3
	19 At Baltimore	—
	26 At Buffalo	—
November	2 NY JETS	—
	10 At Houston (N)	—
	16 LOS ANGELES	—
	23 BALTIMORE	50-21
	30 At San Francisco	—
December	8 At Miami (N)	24-39
	14 BUFFALO	13-16
	21 At New Orleans	—

1979 SCORES

September	7 CLEVELAND	10-45
	14 ATLANTA	26-27
	21 At Seattle	28-13
	29 DENVER (N)	26-31
October	5 At NY Jets	26-6
	12 MIAMI	56-3
	19 At Baltimore	—
	26 At Buffalo	—
November	2 NY JETS	—
	10 At Houston (N)	—
	16 LOS ANGELES	—
	23 BALTIMORE	50-21
	30 At San Francisco	—
December	8 At Miami (N)	24-39
	14 BUFFALO	13-16
	21 At New Orleans	—

The next week they bombed Baltimore, 50-21, but then lost three straight games to Buffalo, Miami, and the New York Jets to take themselves right out of the pennant race. The queer thing is that they had clobbered all three of those teams earlier in the season.

How do you figure the Patriots? They were 6-2 after the first two months and visions of the Super Bowl danced in their heads. Why not? They have the players.

But it takes more than just players. If the team is to get control of its destiny, it may be up to Erhardt to assert himself more in his second year as head coach. He was't named to the job until late in the spring, past the point when most head coaches already have completed their pre-training camp planning. If time is money to a businessman, time can be victories to a football coach.

There was another factor which handicapped Erhardt as the result of the delay in his getting the job. Two other Patriot assistants, defensive coordinator Hank Bullough and offensive line coach Jim Ringo also were seeking the post. When Erhardt finally was named, he did not have time to pick his own aides.

This year, Bullough left to take a similar position with the Cincinnati Bengals. Ringo was promoted to offensive coordinator when Erhardt got the head job, so there is harmony between those two. Erhardt will have to determine whether the Pats ever can be a consistent winner with Steve Grogan at quarterback.

Grogan did a lot to get rid of his unwanted reputation as a quarterback who would rather run than pass last season. Steve threw for 3,286 yards and 28 touchdown passes. He still averaged 5.8 yards a carry, but he ran much less than he did in 1978. But, as impressive as those statistics are, Grogan remains far from a polished, consistent passer. He is a man who has some big days throwing the football and some other days when he is not even close to having a big day.

There are those who say the Pats might be better off using Tom Owen, a higher percentage

passer than Grogan, at quarterback. There are even more NFL observers who say the Patriots should bite the bullet and go with Matt Cavanaugh, the ex-Pitt star who moved the team so well during the exhibition season, then got to throw only one pass in the regular season (he completed it for a ten-yard gain). Cavanaugh is a charismatic leader, smooth where Grogan is ragged.

But Erhardt has to worry about how much it would take away from the running attack to have Grogan out of the lineup. It's true that Steve doesn't run as much as he used to, but he is still a threat to do it. Just the threat helps, since the team's two starting running backs have a woeful history of injuries. Both Sam Cunningham and Andy Johnson were hurt again last year. Cunningham led the team in ground gaining with 563 yards, but he continues to have shoulder miseries and he has asked the team for a trade to the West Coast. Johnson was done after one month of play. That hurt, since he is one of the NFL's most underrated players.

In their absence, Horace Ivory and Don Calhoun did most of the playing. Ivory, who gained 522 yards, had a far weaker season than he did in 1978, but he's still a prospective stickout. Calhoun is a hard runner, but he is limited. The Pats have to come up with some reasonable running in order to keep the opposing defenses from overloading against their commendable pass receivers.

Grogan has some killers with whom to work. Harold Jackson, who is flourishing under the new playing rules (see page 4), caught 45 passes and averaged 22.5 yards a catch, even though he is now 34 years old. Stanley Morgan averaged 22.8 yards on his 44 catches, plus a dozen touchdowns. The Pats were one of three NFL teams to boast two 1,000-yard catchers. Jackson had 1,013 and Morgan 1,002. Morgan also was one of the NFL's top punt returners with a ten-yard average. He scored a thirteenth touchdown on an 80-yard return.

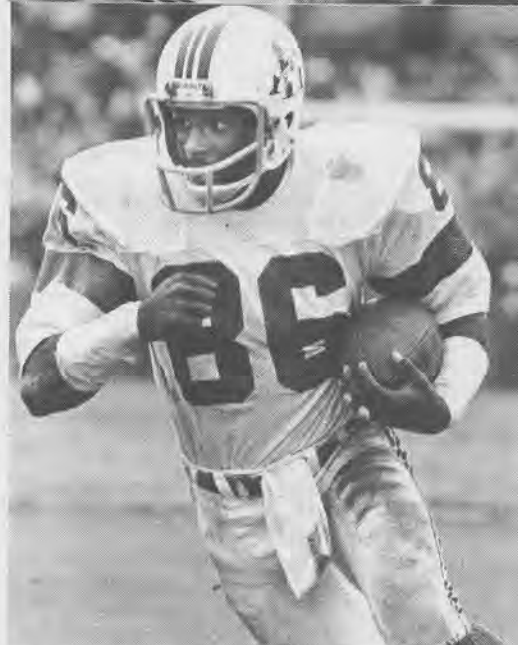
Tight end Russ Francis, one of the NFL's best, was hurt again, but he caught 39 balls for a 14.3-yard average.

Undoubtedly, the Pats' running troubles involved the year's most controversial trade, the dealing of tackle Leon Gray to Houston for a first-round draft choice. Gray, who won several awards as the best offensive lineman in the NFL, used to line up on the left side alongside guard John Hannah, who won similar awards in the past. It was the most awesome combination in pro football. But Gray, who had contract squabbles with the Pats, was deemed expendable and ended up blocking for Earl Campbell instead of Sam Cunningham. It hurt the Pats far more than just physically.

"At least Leon is going to an organization which is interested in winning," commented Hannah after the trade. The deal was a signal to Hannah and his teammates that the Pats were not fully committed to making it to the play-offs.

The Pats tried Dwight Wheeler, Bob Cryder,

New England Patriots (clockwise from top left): Sam "Bam" Cunningham, guard John Hannah, former Viking running back Chuck Foreman, first-round draft choice Vagas Ferguson of Notre Dame, premier tight end Russ Francis hauling in a touchdown, and the team's second-leading scorer, receiver Stanley Morgan





Garry Puetz, and finally Pete Brock at Gray's old spot. They never did come up with a good answer, although Brock, drafted in the first round as a center and used for three years as a utility man, could develop. The other tackle, Shelby Jordan, is no All-Pro, but there is still strength in the middle, with Bill Lenkaitis at center and Hannah, Cryder, and Sam Adams at guard.

The defense sacked opposing quarterbacks 57 times last year, most in the NFL, and the secondary is full of high-priced talent, but it sags at the most inopportune times. To relieve the sagging, Erhardt promoted Fritz Shurmur from defensive line coach to defensive coordinator.

"I've always believed in doing fewer things, but doing them better," says Shurmur. "We're not planning to use as many defenses as we have in the past, and we want to cut down on the number of changes we make during the course of a game."

PATRIOTS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
85	Adams, J.	DE	6-4	263	32	8	Texas So.
61	Adams, S.	G	6-3	260	32	8	Pr. View
27	Beaudoin, D.	S	5-11	190	26	4	Minnesota
64	Bishop, R.	NT	6-1	260	30	4	Louisville
65	Boyd, G.	DE	6-6	275	28	3	San Diego St.
58	Brock, P.	C	6-5	260	26	4	Colorado
44	Calhoun, D.	RB	6-0	212	28	6	Kansas St.
12	Cavanaugh, M.	QB	6-1	210	24	2	Pittsburgh
26	Clayborn, R.	CB	6-1	190	25	3	Texas
55	Costic, R.	ILB	6-0	218	25	3	Miss. St.
75	Cryder, B.	G	6-4	265	24	2	Alabama
39	Cunningham, S.	RB	6-3	230	30	7	USC
	Foreman, C.	RB	6-2	207	30	8	Miami
48	Fox, T.	S	5-11	190	27	4	Ohio St.
81	Francis, R.	TE	6-6	242	27	5	Oregon
14	Grogan, S.	QB	6-4	208	27	5	Kansas St.
71	Hamilton, R.	NT	6-1	245	29	7	Oklahoma
73	Hannah, J.	OG	6-2	265	29	7	Alabama
80	Hasselbeck, D.	TE	6-7	245	25	3	Colorado
59	Hawkins, M.	OLB	6-2	232	25	2	Texas A&I
40	Haynes, M.	CB	6-2	195	27	4	Arizona St.
50	Hunt, S.	ILB	6-1	253	29	6	S.F. Austin
23	Ivory, H.	RB	6-0	198	26	3	Oklahoma
29	Jackson, H.	WR	5-10	175	34	12	Jackson St.
	Jarvis, R.	WR	6-1	190	31	9	Norfolk St.
32	Johnson, A.	RB	6-0	204	28	5	Georgia
74	Jordan, S.	OT	6-7	260	28	4	Wash. (Mo.)
	Jury, B.	DB	5-11	193	25	3	Pittsburgh
52	King, S.	OLB	6-4	230	29	7	Tulsa
67	Lenkaitis, B.	C	6-4	255	34	12	Penn. St.
72	Lunsford, M.	DE	6-3	260	30	7	Central St.
49	Matthews, B.	LB	6-2	235	24	1	S. Dakota St.
37	McAlister, J.	RB	6-1	210	29	4	UCLA
34	McCray, P.	S	6-1	190	29	6	Arizona St.
78	McGee, T.	DE	6-4	250	31	9	Bishop
86	Morgan, S.	WR	5-11	180	25	3	Tennessee
57	Nelson, S.	ILB	6-2	230	29	6	N. Dakota St.
17	Owen, T.	QB	6-1	194	28	6	Wichita St.
88	Pennywell, C.	WR	6-2	180	24	2	Grambling
56	Shoate, R.	OLB	6-1	215	27	4	Oklahoma
1	Smith, J.	K	6-0	185	31	6	Southampton
30	Tatupu, M.	RB	6-0	229	25	2	U.S.C.
83	Westbrook, D.	WR	5-10	184	28	3	Nebraska
62	Wheeler, D.	OT	6-3	255	25	1	Tenn. St.

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	James, Roland	DB	6-2	189	22	Tennessee
1	Ferguson, Vagas	RB	6-1	194	23	Notre Dame
2	McGrew, Larry	LB	6-3	231	23	USC
3	McMichael, Steve	DT	6-1	245	23	Texas
5	McDougald, Doug	DE	6-5	271	23	Va. Tech.
6	Brown, Preston	WR	5-10	184	22	Vanderbilt
7	Kearns, Tom	OG	6-3	259	22	Kentucky
8	House, Mike	TE	6-3	243	23	Pacific
9	Burget, Barry	LB	6-2	226	23	Oklahoma
10	Daniel, Tom	C	6-4	245	23	Ga. Tech.
11	Hubach, Mike	P	5-10	185	22	Kansas
12	Jordan, Jimmy	QB	6-0	191	22	Florida St.

"We don't use as many substituted defenses as we have in the past. My thinking is that ten percent of defense is predetermined and the rest is all innate ability."

"We'll be looking for our guys to use their ability more, especially getting them to the ball faster. If we do nothing else, we'll concentrate on getting more of our players in on the tackles."

Shurmur starts with Ray Hamilton, the quick nose guard. Richard Bishop is a sound end as well as a good relief man for Hamilton. Mel Lunsford plays the run better at left end, but Tony McGee is the designated sacker. He had a piece of a dozen quarterback muggings last year. Bishop was involved in nine.

Steve Nelson is one of the formidable inside linebackers in football, a player who could be ranked even with Denver's Randy Gradishar and Pittsburgh's Jack Lambert. The identity of Nelson's partner could change from corpulent Sam Hunt to Bob Golic, the Notre Dame strongman who was injured last year in training camp after the Pats drafted him in the second round.

By the end of the season, the Pats were using four first-round draft choices in their secondary: Mike Haynes and Raymond Clayborn at the corners with Tim Fox at free safety and rookie Rick Sanford at the strong safety. Haynes went to the Pro Bowl again and Clayborn, while controversial off the field, was outstanding on it, at least for the first two-thirds of the season. Fox is the spiritual leader of the defense and Sanford, who had some rough moments in his first year, has so much ability that the New England coaches are sure he is going to be a star.

John Smith returned from a year of injury to give the Pats an excellent season, kicking 23 of 33 field goals. His big value came from within the 40-yard line, where he was 17 of 19.

Not so excellent was rookie punter Eddie Hare, on whom the team spent a fourth-round draft choice. Hare takes a harrowing amount of time to get the punt off and his net average, less than 30 yards, was the lowest in the NFL.

The running game took on better prospects at draft time. The Pats used the second of their two first-round picks for Vagas Ferguson, the durable, hard-running Notre Dame halfback. In another move, they traded with the Minnesota Vikings for Chuck Foreman, whom the Vikes once considered more valuable than O.J. Simpson. Foreman had a woeful season last year, averaging just 2.6 yards on his 87 carries and catching just 19 passes, but if he has something left at age 30, the Pats' offensive system should get it out of him.

With their first pick of the draft, the Pats selected Tennessee's Roland James, giving them five defensive backs who were drafted in the first round. Considering they did not have early picks, the Patriots did well in the draft. Also chosen were tough USC linebacker Larry McGrew, who could contest with Hunt and Golic; Texas defensive tackle Steve McMichael, a fierce competitor; defensive tackle Doug McDougald of Virginia Tech; and Vanderbilt's Preston Brown, a small but widely admired receiver.

The Pats also made a minor trade which brought them Mike St. Clair, defensive end from Cleveland.

The defense also makes extended use of end Julius Adams, safety Dick Beaudoin, and



Buffalo QB Joe Ferguson threw for more than 3,500 yards last year.

linebackers Steve King, John Zamberlin, and Ray Costic (behind starters Mike Hawkins and Rod Shoate).

The offensive bench includes tight end Don Hasselbeck, fullback Mosi Tatupu, plus wide receivers Carlos Pennywell and Don Westbrook, and special-teams ace Allan Clark.

BUFFALO BILLS The progress in Buffalo under Chuck Knox is undramatic, plodding, and sometimes tedious. But it's progress, steady progress.

Small triumphs are still to be celebrated in Buffalo. The Bills improved from five victories, ten losses in 1978 to 7-9 last year. They are almost always in the game. Five of their nine losses were by a touchdown or less. The Buffalo fans will have to be content with small triumphs again. The Bills will be better, but the schedule—which includes Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Oakland—is tougher.

When Knox came to Buffalo two years ago, his first priority was to overhaul a personnel department which was almost a scandal in its failure. He is still weeding out deadwood and replacing it with players of his own choosing, mostly from the draft.

The big draft choice, the No. 1 in the entire 1979 draft as the result of the O.J. Simpson deal with San Francisco, got away from the Bills when Ohio State linebacker Tom Cousineau shocked the Buffalo organization by signing with Montreal of the Canadian Football League. But Knox still ended up with the top two rookies in the AFC: linebacker Jim Haslett and wide receiver Jerry Butler. He also vows that sooner or later, this season or next, Cousineau will end up in a Buffalo uniform.

The most measurable progress the Buffalo club made last year was on defense. Knox decided to commit the defense to the 3-4 alignment and it paid off. The Bills allowed 75 fewer points than they did in 1978. Only seven other NFL teams allowed fewer than Buffalo.

Knox's formula for defensive success is, "first you stop the run, then everything else follows." The Bills didn't really stop the run last season, but compared to their recent past it was almost a total halt. In 1978, they ranked dead last in the NFL against the run, allowing 201.8 yards to each opponent. For the first six weeks of last season, the yardage was almost as generous, and the 3-4 decision was questioned openly. Then, for the rest of the season, it came together. The average yardage dropped by nearly 50 points a game and the final figure was 155.

Three rookies played key roles in the improvement. Haslett, a second-round draft choice from Little Indiana, Pennsylvania, State, was originally meant to spend a learning season behind veteran Isiah Robertson on the outside, with Cousineau starting at one of the inside linebacker positions. But when Cousineau defected, Haslett was shoved into the starting assignment and flourished. He made 124 tackles and set up the winning field goal in overtime against New England by making a sensational one-handed interception.

Jeff Nixon won the free safety job from onetime All-Pro Tony Greene in the last third of the season. Nixon, a fourth-round draftee, led the Bills in interceptions with six, as the team increased its overall total from 14 to 24 over the previous season.

A third rookie, rugged Fred Smerlas, shared the nose tackle position with veteran Mike

Kadish and those two were responsible for a large share of the improvement against the run.

In addition, two 1980 draftees who missed all or most of their rookie seasons, should be prominent on this year's defensive unit. Ken Johnson, a big, amazingly swift defensive end, will be used frequently as a pass rusher, since the Bills' pass rush was not one of the improved areas last year. Johnson suffered a badly sprained ankle at the start of last season and played just briefly at the end of the year. Rod Kush came to training camp with a broken foot, a result of a family basketball game, or he may have won the strong-safety assignment. Kush

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Mike Mayer, 77 points on 20 field goals and 17 PAT's... 14th
RUSHING—Brown, 172 carries for 574 yards, 3.3 avg., 1 TD... 16th
PASSING—Ferguson, 238 of 458 attempts for 3572 yards, 14 TD's... 8th
RECEIVING—Lewis, 54 receptions for 1082 yards, 20.0 avg., 2 TD's... 14th
INTERCEPTIONS—Nixon, 6 for 81 yards, 13.5 avg., 5th
PUNTING—Jackson, 96 punts, 38.2 avg., longest 60 yards... 11th
PUNT RETURNS—Moody, 38 for 318 yards, 8.4 avg., 10th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Moody, 27 for 556 yards, 20.6 avg., 13th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 9 PHILADELPHIA (N)
16 At Detroit (N)
23 GREEN BAY (N)
28 At Houston (N)

1980 SCHEDULE 1979 SCORES

September	7 MIAMI	7-9
	14 NY JETS	46-31
	21 At New Orleans	—
	28 OAKLAND	—
October	5 At San Diego	19-27
	12 BALTIMORE	13-14
	19 At Miami	7-17
	26 NEW ENGLAND	6-26
November	2 ATLANTA	—
	9 At NY Jets	14-12
	16 At Cincinnati	51-24
	23 PITTSBURGH	0-28
	30 At Baltimore	31-13
December	7 LOS ANGELES	—
	14 At New England	16-13
	21 At San Francisco	—



Jerry Butler was an outstanding rookie.

will challenge incumbent Steve Freeman from the start this time.

The defensive improvement wasn't just a matter of inserting kids into the lineup. Knox also succeeded in getting some of the veterans interested. End Sherman White had his best year as a Bill, blocking six field goal attempts, plus an extra point, and leading the team in sacks with 5½. Kadish, who had played out his option, was outstanding in a position new to him.

The biggest help may have been Robertson, whom Knox obtained from his old team, the Los Angeles Rams, after Butch had burned his bridges there. In Buffalo Robertson played the strong side for the first time and provided the experience and leadership the young linebacking corps needed. To inspire him, Knox made him the highest paid linebacker in the NFL.

Shane Nelson, who got unsatisfactory marks as the strong-side backer in the previous 4-3 alignment, was switched to inside linebacker, alongside Haslett, and he, too, flourished. Lucious Sanford, who made the all-rookie team the season before, was the lone disappointment as the weak-side backer.

An improved pass rush could put the two cornerbacks, Mario Clark and Charles Rome, in the company of the best NFL players. Clark started out like a Pro Bowler, but his aggressiveness tailed off in the last half of the season.

It was an odd season for the Bills in that after five games they led the NFL in scoring. For the

next 11 games, they averaged ten points. What happened was that the opposition learned that an old Buffalo staple, running the football, was no longer one of its staples. Terry Miller, the rookie star of 1978, was terrible. Curtis Brown, his running mate, was out of position at full-back.

"One of the top priorities this season will be to get our running game going," says Knox. He'll probably have to rehabilitate Miller to do that. Terry, a 1,000-yard rusher as a rookie, dropped to 484 yards last year. He didn't have even one good game, but rather just one long run, a 75-yarder against Green Bay. Miller went on a new, off-season conditioning program which Knox hopes will make him stronger and more durable. Brown, at 5-10 and 203 pounds, is not built for the heavy-duty stuff he had to perform last year. He is an excellent player, but the Bills need a genuinely big back for the short-yardage and blocking duties.

Knox also thinks the poor year suffered by the offensive line is one of the reasons for the deficient running. The strength of the line is in the veteran guards, All-Pro Joe DeLamielleure and Reggie McKenzie, both of whom played hurt last season. Tim Vogler, who had to be used as a backup guard last year, gained 25 pounds and a lot of muscle, so he'll be aimed at Willie Parker's center job, or he may be used more at guard. Ken Jones improved as the left tackle last year, but Joe Devlin had a penalty-packed season and could be challenged by pro sophomore Jon Borchardt.



Bills' coach Chuck Knox

While the running sagged, the passing game perked up considerably. Joe Ferguson, who has been Buffalo's starter since his rookie season in 1973, arrived as a pro quarterback last year.

"He has been the most underrated quarterback in the league for years," says John Brodie, the ex-San Francisco star. "Before he's through, I think he'll be one of the best quarterbacks ever to play in the NFL."

Ferguson threw for 3,572 yards last season, but he's always had an outstanding arm. What

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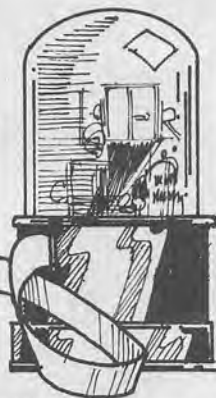
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Linebacker Jim Haslett



Defensive tackle Fred Smerlas



Free safety Jeff Nixon



Linebacker Isiah Robertson

distinguished last year from the others which preceded it was Fergy's mastery of the finesse areas of quarterbacking. He also emerged as the team leader after reticent seasons in the shadow of O.J.

Ferguson has two explosive targets. Frank Lewis, the ex-Steeler who seems to have defeated his old injury jinx, became the third Buffalo receiver ever to catch 1,000 yards worth of passes. The biggest explosion was

Butler. The slick rookie set Buffalo records for a first-year player by catching 48 passes for 834 yards. In one game against the New York Jets, he caught ten passes for 255 yards and four touchdowns.

Butler never saw single coverage after that show, and the expectation is that both he and Lewis will get extra attention from opposing defensive coordinators this season. If that happens, the tight end would have to figure far more prominently in the pass offense than Reuben Gant did last year. Since Gant does not help the running game much with his blocking, Knox may have to look elsewhere at the position. When Butler missed three games due to a shoulder injury, super sub Lou Piccone stepped in and exceeded his career totals with 33 catches for 556 yards.

Nick Mike-Mayer, signed four games into the season, gave Buffalo its best place-kicking in five years. He hit on 20 of 29 field goals, including 16 of 18 within the 40. The punting is a different story. Knox ran out of patience with Rusty Jackson after a second season of poor kicks in clutch situations.



Linebacker Shane Nelson

Buffalo's first-round selection produced an almost certain starter, North Carolina State center Jim Ritcher. Another possible starter came in a deal with Oakland. He is veteran linebacker Phil Villapiano, who was acquired in a trade for veteran wide receiver Bob Chandler. Villapiano may be stationed at the strong-side linebacker spot, with Robertson switched to the weak side, more familiar for him, where he would contest with Sanford.

The draft also brings Auburn running back Joe Cribbs, a small but versatile and strong player who could make Miller expendable. At any rate, Cribbs should help the Bills in the return department.

It could be that another rookie, Mark Brammer of Michigan State, could replace Gant at tight end. Brammer does not have deep-route speed, but he has hands, can block, and was an overachiever in college.

The draft also brought quarterback Gene Bradley, a strong-armed ex-pro baseball player from Arkansas State who is a future project; big guard John Schmeding of Boston College; linebacker Ervin Parker of South Carolina State; and Georgia quarterback Jeff Pyburn, who will be converted to safety.

BILLS VETERAN ROSTER

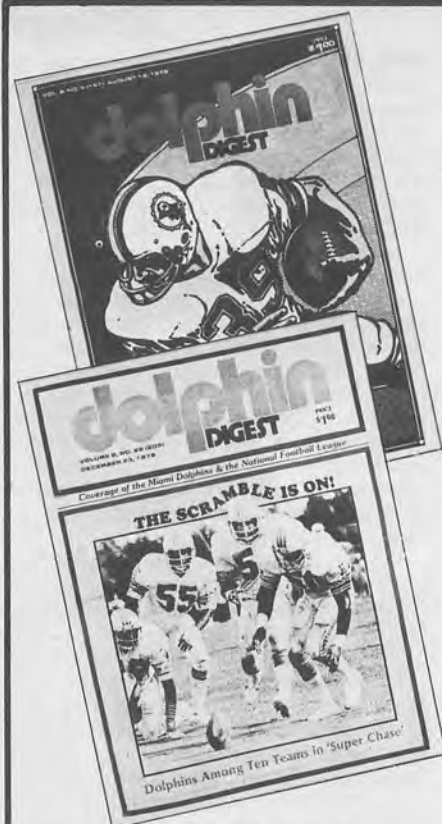
NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
50	Ball, A.	LB	6-2	245	25	1	Fullerton
	Baker, K.	LB	6-4	240	25	1	William Penn
73	Borchardt, J.	T	6-5	255	23	2	Montana St.
47	Brown, C.	FB	5-10	203	26	4	Missouri
80	Butler, J.	WR	6-0	178	23	2	Clemson
29	Clark, M.	CB	6-2	195	26	5	Oregon
35	Collier, M.	RB	5-11	200	27	5	Morgan St.
68	DeLamielleure, J.	G	6-3	245	29	8	Michigan St.
70	Devlin, J.	T	6-5	250	26	5	Iowa
85	Dokes, P.	DE	6-5	255	25	3	Okla. St.
56	Ehlers, T.	LB	6-2	218	28	5	Kentucky
12	Ferguson, J.	QB	6-1	195	30	8	Arkansas
22	Freeman, S.	SS	5-11	185	27	6	Miss. St.
84	Fulton, D.	WR	6-2	180	24	2	Omaha
62	Fulton, E.	G	6-3	250	25	3	Maryland
88	Gant, R.	TE	6-4	225	28	7	Okla. St.
53	Grant, W.	C	6-4	248	26	3	Kentucky
21	Greene, D.	S	6-2	205	24	3	Texas A&I
43	Greene, T.	FS	5-10	175	31	10	Maryland
74	Hardison, D.	DE	6-4	269	24	3	No. Carolina
55	Haslett, J.	LB	6-3	232	25	2	Indiana, Pa.
54	Higgins, T.	LB	6-2	235	26	2	N.C. St.
25	Hooks, R.	RB	6-0	195	27	5	N.C. St.
	Howard, R.	TE	6-4	230	29	6	Seattle
90	Hutchinson, S.	DE	6-4	243	24	3	Florida
75	Jeremia, M.	DE	6-2	244	26	1	Brig. Young
51	Jilek, D.	LB	6-2	225	27	5	Michigan
39	Johnson, D.	RB	6-3	220	24	3	Miss. St.
91	Johnson, K.	DE	6-5	253	25	2	Knoxville
72	Jones, K.	T	6-5	250	28	5	Ark. St.
71	Kadish, M.	NT	6-5	270	30	8	Notre Dame
52	Keating, C.	LB	6-2	223	23	2	Maine
	Kirtman, M.	WR	6-1	180	24	1	San Jose St.
20	Kush, R.	S	6-0	188	24	1	Omaha
	Leaks, R.	FB	5-10	219	27	6	Texas
82	Lewis, F.	WR	6-1	196	33	10	Grambling
11	Manucci, D.	QB	6-2	194	23	2	Kansas St.
67	McKenzie, R.	G	6-5	242	30	9	Michigan
5	Mike-Mayer, N.	K	5-9	185	30	8	Temple
40	Miller, T.	RB	5-10	196	24	3	Okla. St.
46	Moody, K.	CB	5-10	170	27	5	Syracuse
9	Munson, B.	QB	6-2	205	39	17	Utah St.
59	Nelson, S.	LB	6-1	225	25	4	Baylor
38	Nixon, J.	S	6-3	190	24	2	Richmond
61	Parker, W.	C	6-3	245	32	9	N. Texas St.
89	Piccone, L.	WR	5-9	175	31	7	W. Liberty St.
23	Powell, S.	RB	5-11	186	24	3	N.E. Missouri
58	Robertson, I.	LB	6-3	225	31	10	Southern
26	Romes, C.	CB	6-1	190	26	4	N.C. Central
57	Sanford, L.	LB	6-2	216	24	3	Georgia Tech
87	Shipp, J.	TE	6-4	225	25	2	USC
76	Smerlas, F.	NT	6-3	270	23	2	Boston Coll.
	Villapiano, P.	LB	6-2	225	31	10	Bowl Green
65	Vogler, T.	C-G	6-3	245	24	2	Ohio St.
83	White, S.	DE	6-5	250	32	9	California
77	Williams, B.	DE	6-3	245	26	5	Mississippi
86	Willis, L.	WR	5-11	185	27	5	Ohio St.
60	Zelencik, C.	C	6-4	245	25	2	Perdue

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Ritcher, Jim	C	6-3	251	22	N.C. St.
2	Cribbs, Joe	RB	5-11	190	22	Auburn
2	Bradley, Gene	QB	6-4	199	23	Ark. St.
3	Brammer, Mark	TE	6-3	238	22	Mich. St.
3	Schmeding, John	OG	6-4	268	25	Boston Col.
4	Parker, Ervin	LB	6-4	225	22	S.C. St.
5	Pyburn, Jeff	DB	6-1	204	23	Georgia
5	Lee, Keith	DB	5-11	192	23	Col. St.
8	Krueger, Todd	QB	6-4	188	23	No. Mich.
9	Davis, Kent	DB	5-10	168	23	SE Mo. St.
10	Cater, Greg	P	6-0	191	23	Chattanooga
11	Gordon, Joe	DT	6-3	269	24	Grambling
12	Lapham, Roger	TE	6-5	235	23	Maine

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AFCeast

BALTIMORE COLTS Ineptitude, like beauty, is all in the eye of the beholder. Four days after the Colts' season ended with an upset victory over the New York Giants, breaking a six-game losing streak, a Baltimore columnist urged the organization to banish half its roster in order to return respectability to Colt football.

A month later, Mike McCormack, the team's new head coach, said "There will be no wholesale changes." Two straight years in last place in the AFC East would seem to suggest that wholesale change is just what the team needs. But McCormack does not have command over the entire football operation. He does not run the college draft. He does not pull the strings. He is, in fact, happy for a chance to coach again. His 16-25-1 record after four years as Philadelphia's head coach did not seem to make him a strong candidate for any head job in the NFL.

But the Colts do a lot of strange things these years. They have been doing them ever since Robert Irsay bought the team. Irsay traveled all over the country last year, trying to hustle the best deal where he could move the franchise.

Finally, commissioner Pete Rozelle and his fellow owners told him to sit down and shut up, so the Colts will stay in Baltimore. But Irsay's erratic methods, the conservatism of ex-coach Ted Marchibroda, and the trading of Baltimore legends by ex-general manager Joe Thomas has all but evaporated the Colt fan following.

The hiring of McCormack instead of a George Allen or some other proven winner is not the thing to win back the crowds. The only thing which will sell tickets in Baltimore is a healthy Bert Jones. "The Franchise" has suffered through two seasons of shoulder misery.

But it isn't just his passing which the Colts miss, it's the confidence he instills in the club that, with him at quarterback, beating opponent is possible.

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Mike-Mayer, 61 points on 11 field goals and 28 PAT's... 21st
RUSHING—Washington, 242 carries for 884 yards, 3.7 avg., 4 TD's... 5th
PASSING—Landry, 270 of 457 attempts for 2932 yards, 15 TD's... 7th
RECEIVING—Washington, 82 receptions for 750 yards, 9.1 avg., 3 TD's... 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Shiver, 4 for 85 yards, 21.3 avg., 23rd
PUNTING—Dilts, 99 punts, 36.9 avg., longest 53 yards... 12th
PUNT RETURNS—Glasgow, 44 for 352 yards, 8.0 avg., 1 TD... 12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Glasgow, 50 for 1126 yards, 22.5 avg., 5th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

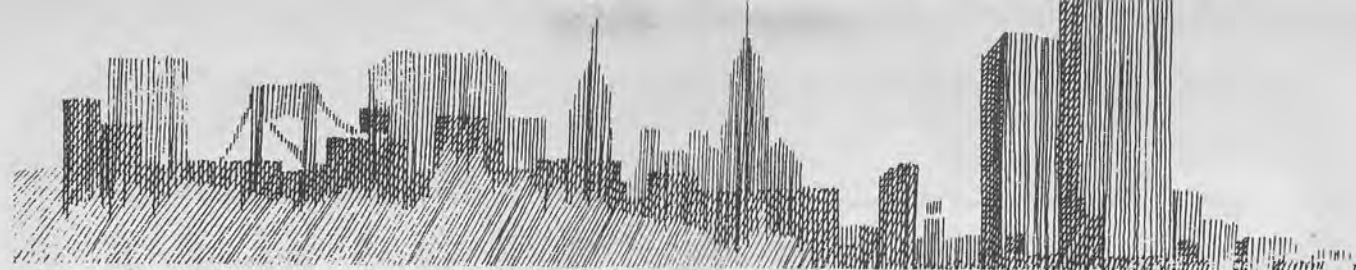
August 9 WASHINGTON (N)
 16 At Green Bay (N)
 22 NEW YORK GIANTS (N)
 29 At Atlanta (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

1979 SCORES

September	7 At NY Jets	17-30
	14 PITTSBURGH	13-17
	21 At Houston	16-28
	28 NY JETS	10-8
October	5 At Miami	0-19
	12 At Buffalo	14-13
	19 NEW ENGLAND	31-26
	26 ST. LOUIS	—
November	2 At Kansas City	0-14
	9 CLEVELAND	10-13
	16 At Detroit	—
	23 At New England	21-50
	30 BUFFALO	13-31
December	7 At Cincinnati	38-28
	14 MIAMI	24-28
	21 KANSAS CITY	7-10

Baltimore's all-purpose back Joe Washington had seven TD's; Greg Landry (inset) filled in well.



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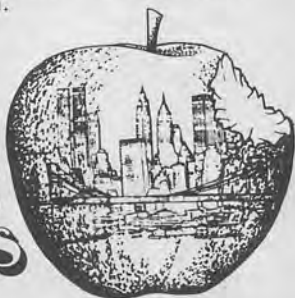
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Information So Comprehensive Absolutely Nothing Is Missing

Head Coach
Type of offense
Log of past games
Complete schedule
Individual game analysis by professional correspondents
Scoring sequence
Complete game statistics
Season's statistical totals for team with differential
Season's average point totals plus average win & loss margins
Season's pointspread record
Results of last year's game
Preview of upcoming game

Season's record
Playing surface
Opening power rating
Last week's rating
Current power rating

Oklahoma (-13) at Missouri

Barry Switzer (70-7-2)
Off: Wishbone
1979 Schedule
S. 15 Iowa 74(+29)(NL)
22 Tulsa(NL)(NL)
29 at Rice 65(NL)(NL)
O. 6 Colorado 96(NL)(NL)
13 at Texas 126(-1)(+1)
20 at Kansas St. 88(NL)(NL)
27 Iowa St. 94(NL)(NL)
N. 3 at Okla. St. 94(+17)(+20)
10 Kansas 77(+26)(NL)
17 at Missouri
24 Nebraska

Warren Powers (14-9)
Off: Veer
1979 Schedule
S. 8 San Diego St.(NL)(NL)
15 at Illinois 87(+17)(+17½)
22 at Miss. 90(+8)(+6½)
29 Texas 125(+1)(-1)
O. 13 Oklahoma St. 89(+13)(+13½)
20 at Colorado 96(+10)(+7½)
27 Kansas St. 88(+18)(+20)
N. 3 Nebraska 122(-14)(-15)
10 at Iowa St. 95(+6)(+6)
17 Oklahoma
24 at Kansas

Game No. 1
Billy Sims rushed for 14 touchdowns and four defensive tackle John G. to give the Sooners a Kansas
Oklahoma

Game No. 9
Opponent's Power Rating
Closing Line
Pointspread
Winner Against Closing Line
Final Score

S. 15 at Illinois 87(+17)(+17½)
22 at Miss. 90(+8)(+6½)
29 Texas 125(+1)(-1)
O. 13 Oklahoma St. 89(+13)(+13½)
20 at Colorado 96(+10)(+7½)
27 Kansas St. 88(+18)(+20)

Totals After 9 Games

OKLA	OPP	DIFF
176	128	+48
522	463	+159
3130	1284	+1846
6.0	2.8	+3.2
34	99	-65
76	207	-131
677	1094	-417
4	16	-12
723	302	+421
33-40.1	71-39.0	-38,+1.1
42-30	30-14	+12,+16
68-586	39-361	+29,+225

Totals Pts. (Avg.)
Home Pts. (Avg.)
Away Pts. (Avg.)

POINTSPPREAD

HOME	AWAY
5-0	3-1
0-0	1-1
0-0	1-1
0-0	0-0
0-0	0-0
0-0	0-0

Last Year's Game—Sept. 30, 1978
Billy Sims rushed 14 times for 184 yards and four touchdowns in just to a 45-23 victory over Missouri. Sims ripped off scoring runs of 42 and 50 yards in the first quarter and dove into the end zone from one yard out in the second and third periods. Tiger QB Phil Bradley tallied from the one-yard line for

Oklahoma at Missouri
Series Record: Oklahoma 43-21-5
Last Game: 1978; Oklahoma (-18) 45, Missouri 23
Though the Cornhuskers have stolen some of their thunder this year, the Sooners are still an awesome collection of athletes and a major force in the Big Eight. . . . With scoring mashing Billy Sims exploding out of the backfield, Oklahoma is a constant threat to strike pay dirt.

PREDICTION: Oklahoma 31, Missouri 28

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Nov. Pro "Pick" — **KANSAS CITY** (+ 6½) vs. San Diego 14-20 ... Won
Dec. Pro "Pick" — **PITTSBURGH** (- 3½) over Houston 17-20 ... Stolen
Play-off Pro "Pick" — **PITTSBURGH** (- 9½) over Miami 34-14 ... Won

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AFCeast

"I know one thing," says his battery mate, Roger Carr, "When he's in there rifling the ball, it makes a difference. When Bert is healthy and I'm healthy and everybody's right, you just get that feeling that something good is going to come out of it."

When... if... maybe. That is the capsule sizeup of the Colts. There are more ifs than McCormack can handle.

If Jones's shoulder allows him to play the entire season.

If a replacement can be found for Carr, the reluctant Colt who has demanded a trade.

If more use can be made of little Joe Washington without wearing him to a nub as a full-time running back.

If a major-league fullback can be found.

If George Kunz can make a successful comeback after a year's retirement.

The reality is that Jones was able to throw only 92 passes last year. Greg Landry, for whom the Colts traded with Detroit for the purpose of giving Jones an experienced backup, was put in the awkward position of having to start most of the games. Landry is in the twilight of his career, but he still passed for 2,932 yards on a team without a capable running game and an offensive line without first-rank tackles. Landry can't be expected to play as much this season.

Carr, one of the NFL's most dangerous deep threats, is one of those finely tuned athletes

who can't perform unless he is 100 percent. He caught only 27 passes last year for just one touchdown and a mere 14.8-yard average. Now he wants out.

Washington filled Lydell Mitchell's former role last year and performed remarkably well in his first full season as a Colt. He ran the ball 242 times and the only AFC backs who got as much business were fullback types such as Earl Campbell, Franco Harris, Pete Johnson, and Mark van Eeghen. Washington has trouble weighing in over 170 pounds.

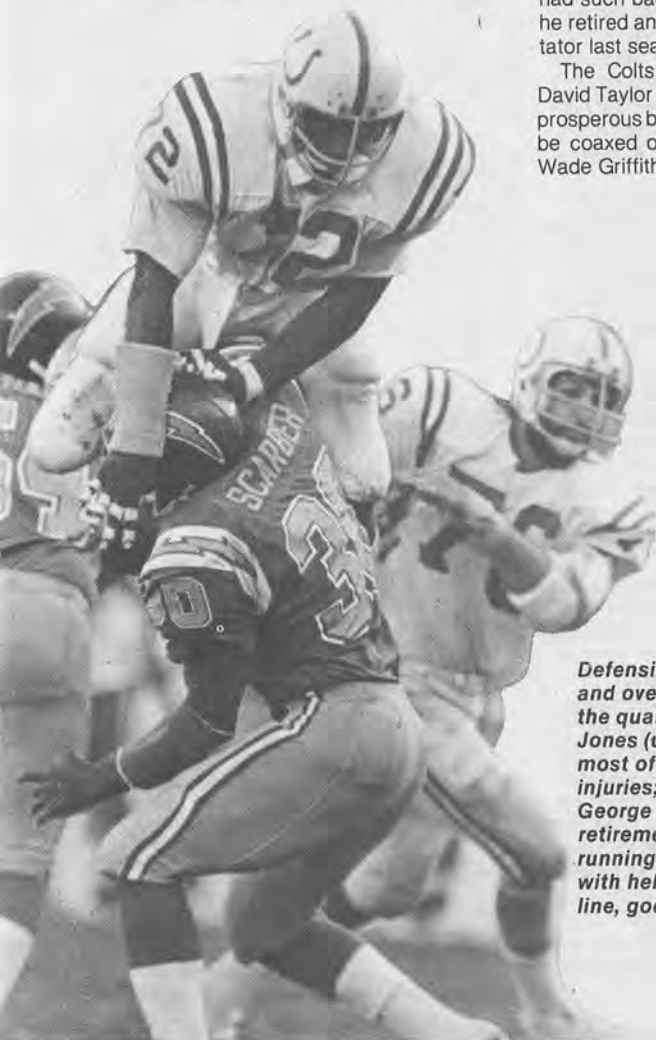
Just as significantly, Washington caught more passes than any player in the NFL, 82. There is some sentiment to make him a wide receiver, but McCormack sounds reluctant.

"If you throw the ball to an outside receiver 12 times and he catches eight, that's a big day," says Mike. "You can give the ball to a back 20 times. Another possibility might be to use Joe in a double-wing formation."

Coming up with a fullback is a problem, a massive one. Marchibroda kidded himself twice, first about Roosevelt Leaks and later about Don Hardeman. Hardeman averaged 2.9 yards a carry last year, Leaks 3.0. Hardeman was traded to Denver. Leaks was waived. Mark Bailey, obtained in a trade with Kansas City, is the probable starter.

Talk of Kunz returning seems to be a case of whistling in the dark. A one-time All-Pro, Kunz had such back problems a few years ago that he retired and became an NBC color commentator last season.

The Colts also lost another tackle when David Taylor chucked it all in disgust. He has a prosperous business, so it's unlikely that he can be coaxed out of retirement. The team used Wade Griffith and Jeff Hart as starting tackles



Defensive end Fred Cook goes up and over San Diego en route to the quarterback; quarterback Bert Jones (upper right) has sat out most of the past two years with injuries; former All-Pro tackle George Kunz (# 75) cut short his retirement in a comeback attempt; running back Joe Washington, with help from the offensive line, goes for a short gain here.





Defensive tackle Joe Ehrmann



Offensive guard Robert Pratt



Wide receiver Roger Carr



Defensive end Fred Cook



Linebacker Barry Krauss

AFCeast

last season and no one mistook them for Pro Bowl choices.

The interior of the line is far better, Ken Mendenhall has been an acceptable center for years. Robert Pratt is one of the league's top guards and Ken Huff, while he never lived up to his college reputation, is a solid journeyman.

The Colts, with Jones in the infirmary, had a near fetish about throwing to their wide receivers. Three backs, Washington, Harde-man, and Don McCauley, caught 162 passes among them. Glen Doughty led the wide receivers with 35 catches for a 14.6 yards average and just two touchdowns. Doughty was vocal in his criticism of Marchibroda's offensive strategy. Reese McCall, the young tight end who was the team's No. 1 draftee two years ago, came under heavy critical fire. He caught 37 passes for four touchdowns and a 14.5-yard average.

Defensively, the major problem is the secondary. The Colts had a much better than average pass rush, sacking the quarterback 39 times, but the enemy still threw 23 touchdown passes against them. Only the New York Jets and Cincinnati were worse among AFC teams.

Two rookies finished the season as starters in the secondary: corner Larry Braziel and free safety Nesby Glasgow. Another veteran, Norm Thompson, was released after the season. The top veteran is Bruce Laird, the strong safety.

The defensive line includes two of the best players in the NFL, tackle Mike Barnes and end Fred Cook. Tackle Joe Ehrmann, injured often in recent years, is no longer the player he once was, but between him and Herb Orvis the right tackle position is fairly solid. Greg Fields ended up the starter at the end opposite Cook, but that could change this year.

Sanders Shiver finally won a starting job at strong-side linebacker and the expectation is that he will improve. Stan White, the weak-side backer, was traded to Detroit: The major problem is in the middle. Marchibroda tried to replace undersized Ed Simonini last year by making Alabama's Barry Krauss the team's first-round draft choice. Krauss was the year's rookie flop in the entire NFL. McCormack must pray that Krauss develops soon, because the Colts need a stopper against the better ground games and Simonini, try as he may, isn't it.

McCormack also could use some specialists. After Toni Linhart kicked himself out of work early last year, Steve Mike-Mayer was signed and did a so-so job, connecting on 11 of 20 field goals. Bucky Dilts, obtained from Denver to do the punting, had one of the worst records in the league. Glasgow did a good job returning kickoffs, averaging 22.5 yards. He also returned a punt for a 75-yard touchdown.

The Colts had two first-round draft choices, the extra coming as a result of the trade of recalcitrant defensive end John Dutton to the Dallas Cowboys. With the first pick they selected Curtis Dickey, who will be one of the fastest players in the NFL. The Texas A&M star will get an immediate trial as the starting running back, but if he turns out to be a straight-ahead runner, as some scouts predict, his eventual position may be wide receiver.

The second-round selection was Derrick Hatchett, one of the good Texas defensive backs. He should start by opening day.

The draft also provides a chance to strengthen the offensive line. The second-round selection was Georgia center Ray Donaldson, a sizable star who has possibilities at guard or tackle. After Donaldson came Notre Dame star guard Tim Foley. Later, USC center Chris Foote was selected. A wide receiver, Raymond Butler of USC, may be given a chance for Carr's job against Mike Siani and Marshall Johnson.

The bench includes offensive tackle Jimmy Moore, guard Bob Van Dwyne, defensive linemen Mike Ozdowski and Herb Orvis, and linebacker Mike Woods.

COLTS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE
83	Alston, M.	TE	6-3	237	33	11	M. E. Shore
	Anderson, K.	CB-S	5-11	172	23	1	Arizona St.
60	Baker, R.	OG	6-4	245	26	3	Oklahoma St.
63	Barnes, M.	DT	6-6	255	30	8	Miami
44	Blackwood, L.	S	6-1	187	29	8	TCU
47	Braziel, L.	DB	6-0	191	26	2	USC
	Brown, K.	SS	5-11	200	23	R	Minnesota
84	Burke, R.	WR	6-2	190	25	3	Kentucky
	Cale, B.	DB	6-1	190	23	1	N. Carolina
81	Carr, R.	WR	6-2	193	28	7	La. Tech.
72	Cook, F.	DE	6-4	252	28	7	So. Miss.
87	DeRoo, B.	WR	6-3	190	24	2	Redlands
10	Dilts, B.	P	5-9	183	27	4	Georgia
35	Doughty, G.	WR	6-1	202	29	9	Michigan
	Dunn, M.	DB	6-4	185	23	1	Duke
76	Ehrmann, J.	DT	6-4	262	31	8	Syracuse
73	Fernandes, R.	DE	6-4	255	29	6	E. Michigan
79	Fields, G.	DE	6-7	254	25	2	Grambling
	Franklin, C.	RB	6-2	216	36	3	Baylor
29	Garry, B.	RB	6-0	203	24	2	So. Miss.
25	Glasgow, N.	DB	5-10	176	23	2	Washington
12	Golsteyn, J.	QB	6-4	210	26	4	N. Illinois
69	Griffin, W.	OT	6-5	253	26	4	Mississippi
52	Gross, L.	C	6-3	232	27	5	Auburn
68	Hart, J.	OT	6-5	258	27	4	Oregon St.
	Heimkreiter, S.	LB	6-2	228	23	1	Notre Dame
62	Huff, K.	G	6-4	250	27	6	N. Carolina
7	Jones, B.	QB	6-3	199	29	8	LSU
90	Krahl, J.	DT	6-5	252	25	2	Texas Tech.
55	Krauss, B.	LB	6-3	233	23	2	Alabama
75	Kunz, G.	OT	6-5	265	29	12	Notre Dame
40	Laird, B.	S	6-1	194	30	9	American Int. Mass.
11	Landry, G.	QB	6-4	207	34	13	Mass.
34	Lee, R.	FB	6-4	234	27	4	W. Virginia
86	McCall, R.	TE	6-6	230	24	3	Auburn
23	McCauley, D.	RB	6-1	208	31	10	N. Carolina
57	Mendenhall, K.	C	6-3	241	31	10	Oklahoma
5	Mike-Mayer, S.	K	6-0	180	33	6	Maryland
30	Nettles, D.	CB	5-11	180	29	6	Vanderbilt
88	Orvis, H.	DT	6-4	249	34	9	Colorado
71	Ozdowski, M.	DE	6-5	243	25	3	Virginia
37	Pinkney, R.	DB	5-11	181	25	4	E. Carolina
61	Pratt, R.	G	6-4	249	29	7	N. Carolina
	Priestner, J.	LB	6-2	230	22	1	W. Ontario
	Schaum, G.	DE	6-4	260	26	3	Michigan St.
54	Shiver, S.	LB	6-2	226	25	5	C. Newman
45	Siani, M.	WR	6-2	199	30	9	Villanova
56	Simonini, E.	LB	6-0	215	26	5	Texas A&M
	Smith, E.	LB	6-1	220	23	R	Vanderbilt
67	Van Dwyne, B.	G	6-4	247	28	7	Idaho
20	Washington, J.	RB	5-10	179	27	5	Oklahoma
	White, C.	RB	6-0	220	27	3	B. Cookman
59	Woods, M.	LB	6-2	228	26	2	Cincinnati

DRAFTTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Dickey, Curtis	RB	6-1	215	24	Texas A&M
1	Hatchett, Derrick	DB	5-11	182	22	Texas
2	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	253	22	Georgia
2	Foley, Tim	OT	6-5	265	22	Notre Dame
4	Butler, Ray	WR	6-3	200	24	USC
6	Foote, Chris	C	6-4	250	24	USC
7	Roberts, Wes	DE	6-6	253	23	TCU
8	Walter, Ken	OT	6-4	238	22	Texas Tech.
9	Bright, Mark	FB	5-11	208	22	Temple
10	Stewart, Larry	OT	6-4	280	24	Maryland
11	Whitley, Eddy	TE	6-3	227	22	Kansas City
12	Bielski, Randy	K	5-11	210	23	Towson St.
12	Sims, Marvin	FB	6-4	234	23	Clemson



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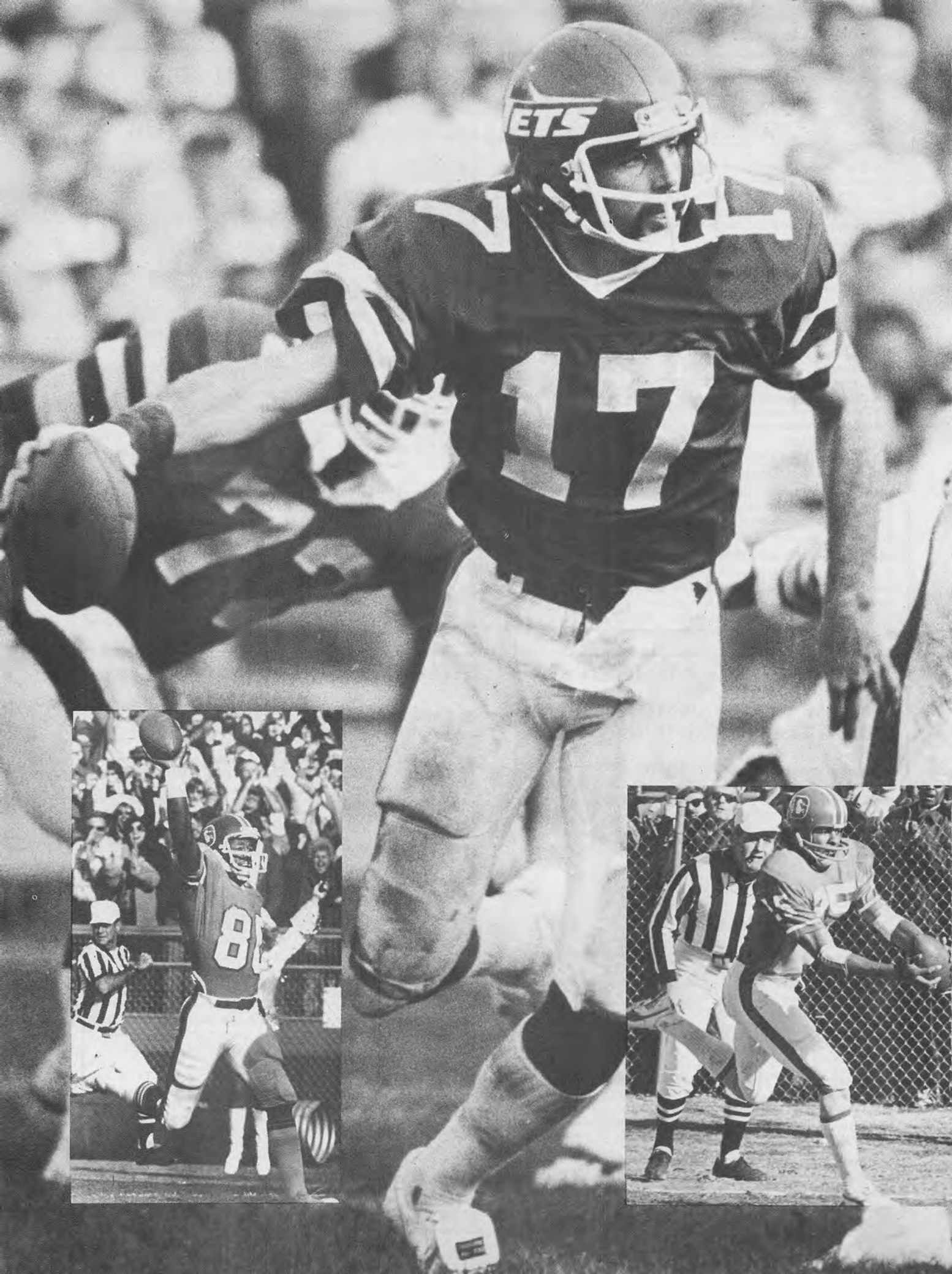
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AFCwest

DENVER BRONCOS The Denver Broncos were getting tired of hearing their supporters moan, "if only they had an offense." The Broncos themselves knew all about that. Two days before last Christmas, the Broncos engaged the Houston Oilers in the wild-card round of the play-offs. The Orange Crush virtually strangled the Oilers. Both Earl Campbell and Dan Pastorini, the Oiler offensive stars, were hurt and had to leave the game. Yet the only success the Denver offense had all day was a first-quarter drive of 80 yards, producing a touchdown. The rest of the day was zilch, in capital letters.

You can't win many games with seven points," said Red Miller, the Denver coach. "I never dreamed they could beat us without Campbell and Pastorini."

Miller had enough frustration. After the season ended, he began calling up other NFL teams to investigate trade possibilities. He discovered his seller in New York when he dialed the number of Jim Kensil, the Jets' president. Kensil was willing to deal Matt Robinson, the team's controversial young quarterback, but the price would be stiff: the Bronco's first- and second-round draft choices.

Miller agreed.

"We used our No. 1 draft choice a couple of months early to acquire a young, yet experienced, quarterback who already has proven he can play in this league," explained the coach.

So the Broncos' future is in the hands of a youngster who wasn't even a starter as a senior at his school, the University of Georgia, and whose pro experience is primarily as a relief pitcher. When Richard Todd got hurt in 1978, Robinson started 11 games for the Jets. He won six of them. Obviously, for Red Miller, the most memorable of those was a game he pulled out in Mile High Stadium. The Broncos led the Jets, 28-7, in the first quarter, but Robinson kept

pecking away. His 75-yard touchdown pass to Wesley Walker won it for the Jets, 31-28, in the last quarter. That game was virtually an audition for the trade.

Robinson won't have Wesley Walker for a target in Denver, but the Broncos think they have a reasonable facsimile. That's Rick Upchurch, who caught 64 passes for 937 yards and seven touchdowns last year, when Craig Morton and Norris Weese were throwing to him. Upchurch is not the most durable player around, but he may terrify a lot of defenses now that he has Robinson throwing to him.

On the other side is the Broncos' old smoothie, Haven Moses. He had one of his finest seasons, catching 54 passes for a team-leading 17.5-yard average and a half dozen touchdowns. As usual, most of Moses's work was in clutch situations. Even though Moses has an 87-game consecutive playing streak intact, the Broncos have to be concerned about his advanced age, 34. When Jack Dolbin suffered a knee injury it took away the only reliable reserve. Dolbin's future is cloudy.

In Riley Odoms Robinson will have one of the most dependable tight ends in the NFL as a receiver. The big fellow, a four-time Pro Bowl selection, suffered a broken arm last year, but in a remarkable show of durability, missed only three games. He finished the season playing with his arm encased in a cast. Odoms, despite the injury, caught 40 passes for a 16-yard average. Robinson is likely to make increased use of him.

Miller thinks his young offensive line ranks with the linebacking corps as the best-fortified unit on the team. Undoubtedly it is the most improved. The only players with any experience of note are tackle Claudie Minor, among the better ones in the NFL, and guard Paul Howard. Dave Studdard, signed as a free agent after being cut by Baltimore, "was like getting a first-round draft choice" last year, in Miller's words. Tom Glassic, the other guard, was a first rounder three years ago and he had his best season. Center Bill Bryan was first rate.

The Broncos used last year's top pick to draft another offensive lineman, Nebraska tackle Kelvin Clark, whom Miller may use at guard this season. One of the major reasons for the development of the line was the addition of Whitey Dovell, signed off the Baltimore staff, as its coach.

What the Broncos don't have in quality running backs they attempt to compensate for in quantity. They used six running backs to carry the ball last year and there was a seventh veteran added this spring when they traded with the Los Angeles Rams for one-time all-star Lawrence McCutcheon. Injured and used sparingly the last two seasons, McCutcheon was a 1,200-yard runner in 1977. At 30, he isn't likely to approach that efficiency again, but with the way Denver employs its backs, McCutcheon should be an asset. He can catch the ball and block, which fits into Miller's style.

The most productive back last year was Otis

Armstrong, who came out of hibernation to gain 453 yards. Jim Jensen gained 400, Rob Lytle 371, John Keyworth 323, Dave Preston 169, and Larry Canada 143. McCutcheon gained 243 for the Rams' Super Bowl team.

The Broncos' blockers allowed their quarterbacks, Craig Morton and Norris Weese, to be sacked 44 times last year. But 31 of those were at the expense of the immobile Morton. Robinson should be far less of a sitting duck. Weese may still be valuable in certain situations, since he is a running quarterback. He averaged 6.4 yards a carry and scored three times last year.

Ancient field goaler Jim Turner still comes up with some big kicks, but he was a mere 4 for 11 beyond the 30-yard line last season. That's why Fred Steinfort, a well-traveled veteran, is being brought back for another look, despite his habit of kicking with a low trajectory.

Defensively, the Broncos are still one of the most formidable units in the NFL. They were the best in the league against the rush, allowing an average of just 105 yards a game. Only San Diego allowed fewer points in the AFC.

The key to the defense is the linebacking. Inside linebacker Randy Gradishar may have been the most dominant defensive player in the league. He went to the Pro Bowl for the third consecutive season. Despite playing half the season with a cast on his hand due to finger surgery, Gradishar led the team in tackles with 146. Gradishar's partner on the inside is Joe Rizzo, an underrated toughie. Tommy Jackson, All-Pro in the past, was injured for three games last year, but Bob Swenson had his best season on the other side of the four-linebacker setup. Swenson intercepted three passes and recovered four fumbles, as well as making 110 solo tackles. Larry Evans and Ron Nairne can step in with a minimum loss of efficiency.

The line is not the hell-for-leather outfit it was when Lyle Alzado played one of its ends.

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Turner, 71 points on 13 field goals and 32 PAT's. 18th
RUSHING—Armstrong, 108 carries for 453 yards, 4.2 avg., 2 TD's. 22nd
PASSING—Morton, 204 of 370 attempts for 2626 yards, 16 TD's. 11th
RECEIVING—Upchurch, 64 receptions for 937 yards, 14.6 avg., 7 TD's. 5th
INTERCEPTIONS—Foley, 6 for 14 yards, 2.3 avg. 9th
PUNTING—Prestridge, 89 punts, 39.9 avg., longest 63 yards. 10th
PUNT RETURNS—Upchurch, 30 for 304 yards, 10.1 avg. 4th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Pane, 18 for 354 yards, 19.7 avg. 17th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 9 CINCINNATI (N)
16 At NY Giants (N)
23 LOS ANGELES (N)
30 At Green Bay (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

September 7 At Philadelphia
14 DALLAS
21 SAN DIEGO
29 At New England (N)
October 5 At Cleveland
13 WASHINGTON (N)
19 KANSAS CITY
26 At NY Giants
November 2 HOUSTON
9 At San Diego
16 NY JETS
23 SEATTLE
December 1 At Oakland (N)
7 At Kansas City
14 OAKLAND
21 At Seattle

1979 SCORES

—
—
7-0
45-10
—
—
20-3
—
7-17
—
37-34
3-27
24-10
10-14
23-28



Ex-Jet QB Matt Robinson will put new life into Bronco offense. He'll throw to Rick Upchurch (far left) and Haven Moses (center). Lawrence McCutcheon came in trade with Rams.

The emphasis was on containment last year. The containment routine may have been overdone. The Broncos sacked opposing passers just 19 times last year, the lowest total in the entire NFL. There could be some strategic changes made to increase that figure. There is enough talent for maneuverability. Defensive line coach Stan Jones has two top nose guards, Rubin Carter and Don Latimer. Brison Manor, Alzado's successor, led the team in sacks with 6½. Barney Chavous is a steady player at the other end. John Grant can play end in the three-man front and tackle in the four-man line. Bruce Radford played little as a rookie, but he has future possibilities.

BRONCOS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
47	Atkinson, G.	S	6-0	185	33	12	Morris Brown
24	Armstrong, O.	RB	5-10	196	30	8	Purdue
55	Brown, K.	C	6-1	245	26	2	New Mexico
64	Bryan, B.	C	6-2	244	25	4	Duke
35	Canada, L.	RB	6-2	220	26	3	Wisconsin
68	Carter, R.	DT	6-0	253	28	6	Miami
79	Chavous, B.	DE	6-3	245	29	8	S. C. St.
73	Clark, K.	T	6-3	245	24	2	Nebraska
82	Dolbin, J.	WR	5-10	180	32	6	Wake Forest
85	Egloff, R.	TE	6-5	227	25	4	Wisconsin
56	Evans, L.	LB	6-2	220	27	5	Miss. Col.
43	Foley, S.	CB	6-2	190	27	5	Tulane
62	Glassic, T.	G	6-4	250	26	5	Virginia
53	Gradishar, R.	LB	6-3	231	28	7	Ohio St.
63	Grant, J.	DE	6-3	240	30	8	USC
	Hardeman, D.	RB	6-1	240	28	6	Texas A&I
27	Harvey, M.	S	5-10	190	24	2	Ball St.
60	Howard, P.	G	6-3	260	30	7	Brig. Young
65	Hyde, G.	G	6-3	252	29	5	Pittsburgh
29	Jackson, B.	S	6-0	180	30	9	Wash. St.
57	Jackson, T.	LB	5-11	228	29	8	Louisville
30	Jensen, J.	RB	6-3	230	27	4	Iowa
32	Keyworth, J.	RB	6-3	230	30	7	Colorado
84	Kinney, V.	WR	6-2	190	24	3	Maryland
72	Latimer, D.	DT	6-2	253	25	3	Miami
41	Lytle, R.	RB	6-1	195	26	4	Michigan
	McCutcheon, L.	RB	6-1	205	30	8	Colorado St.
66	Manor, B.	DE	6-4	248	28	4	Arkansas
71	Minor, C.	T	6-4	275	29	7	San Diego St.
	Moorehead, E.	RB	6-2	210	26	4	Colorado
7	Morton, C.	QB	6-4	211	37	16	California
25	Moses, H.	WR	6-2	201	34	13	San Diego St.
58	Nairne, R.	LB	6-4	220	26	4	Oregon St.
88	Odoms, R.	TE	6-4	244	30	9	Houston
23	Pane, C.	CB	5-11	188	27	5	Chico St.
46	Preston, D.	RB	5-11	195	25	3	Bowl. Green
11	Prestridge, L.	P	6-4	235	24	2	Baylor
78	Radford, B.	DE	6-4	252	25	2	Grambling
	Richards, G.	WR	6-0	180	29	8	Hawaii
59	Rizzo, J.	LB	6-1	220	30	7	M. M. Acad.
17	Robinson, M.	QB	6-2	196	25	4	Georgia
50	Ryan, J.	LB	6-1	212	23	2	Wim & Mary
	Smith, P.	DB	6-0	190	29	8	Col. St.
19	Steinfert, F.	K	5-11	180	28	5	Boston Col.
70	Studdard, D.	T	6-4	255	25	2	Texas
51	Swenson, B.	LB	6-3	222	27	6	California
36	Thompson, B.	S	6-1	197	34	12	Maryland St.
15	Turner, J.	K	6-2	212	39	17	Utah St.
80	Upchurch, R.	WR	5-10	176	28	6	Minnesota
81	Watson, S.	WR	6-4	192	23	2	Temple
14	Weese, N.	QB	6-1	200	29	5	Mississippi
40	West, C.	S	6-1	195	34	13	El Paso
20	Wright, L.	CB	6-2	200	27	6	San Jose St.

DRAFTTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
2	Jones, Rulon	DL	6-7	265	22	Utah St.
3	Carter, Larry	DB	5-11	185	22	Kentucky
4	Parros, Rick	RB	6-0	200	21	Utah St.
5	Harden, Michael	S	6-1	183	22	Michigan
5	Short, Laval	DL	6-3	257	22	Colorado
6	Bishop, Keith	G	6-2	255	22	Baylor
7	Havekost, John	G	6-4	230	21	Nebraska
8	Coleman, Don	WR	6-3	180	22	Oregon
9	Bracelini, Greg	LB	6-2	205	21	California
10	Seay, Virgil	WR	5-7	177	22	Troy St.
11	Farris, Phil	WR	6-2	193	22	N. Carolina
12	Hardeman, Don	FB	6-2	235	22	Texas A&I



Denver LB Randy Gradishar

The prize in the secondary is All-Pro corner Louis Wright. Opposing quarterbacks avoid him with regularity. Strong safety Bill Thompson, the defensive captain, had another strong season, but after 12 years as a pro, Thompson's days as a full-time starter can't be endless. There could be an interesting battle at free safety if young Maurice Harvey recovers fully from knee surgery. He could challenge Bernard Jackson and Charlie West, another 12-year vet. Miller also traded with St. Louis for veteran defensive back Perry Smith, who could end up ahead of everyone at free safety.

Luke Prestridge had a satisfactory season as the rookie punter and Miller thinks he will get a lot better.

For a team without a first-round draft choice, the Broncos did well in the annual draw. Their second-round pick was Rulon Jones, the big, tough defensive end from Utah State who could help immediately. After Jones came Larry Carter, a good defensive back from Kentucky, and Rick Parros, another Utah Stater, considered one of the year's sleeper running backs.

Other rookies of note are Laval Short, a nose guard from Colorado with possibilities; defensive back Mike Hardin of Michigan; and guard Keith Bishop of Baylor.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS The San Diego Chargers should be settling into a relatively long and happy reign as champions of the AFC West. After all, they ended a 14-year drought in 1979, winning their first title of any sort since 1965. They had been building up to it since the landmark draft of 1975 had provided them with the nucleus of a championship defense.

There were other reasons, the most important of which is the greening of Dan Fouts. The young quarterback broke Joe Namath's all-time pro football record for yards gained passing in a season. He is virtually just starting his prime.

But the Chargers aren't necessarily going to enjoy that relatively long and happy a reign. In fact it may be a short reign, one which doesn't extend beyond 1979. It isn't just that the Chargers were upset by Houston in the playoffs, even though the Oilers were playing without super runner Earl Campbell and starting quarterback Dan Pastorini. It isn't just "the case of the stolen signals," the caper whereby the signals flashed from the coaches on the sidelines to Fouts on the field were reportedly

intercepted by a Houston coach in the press box. It isn't just that Fouts had a bad day, intercepted by Houston's Vernon Perry four times.

The reason that San Diego's reign may be a short one is that the Chargers have an inordinate amount of minuses for championship club. Consider the following:

(1) The Charger running game is worse than negligible. Under the offensive system of coach Don Coryell, running doesn't have to be a first-rank priority. In fact, Coryell has controlled the ball through the pass. But few championship team can make it with as little punch as the Chargers have. San Diego finished 27th in the 28-team NFL in that bread-and-butter category.

(2) Contrary to popular opinion, the Chargers are not a young team. Both guards, Ed White and Doug Wilkerson, are 33. In addition, White suffered a knee injury in the Pro Bowl and he required post-season surgery. Longtime star offensive tackle Russ Washington also is 33. So is tight end Bob Klein. That is the guts of the offensive line.

(3) No fresh blood was pumped into the team to compensate for that age, since the top three draft choices had been traded away.

(4) San Diego's principal competitor in the AFC West, Denver, the team which won the title two years running before the Chargers unseated them, helped itself a great deal by trading with the New York Jets for quarterback Matt Robinson.

Of course, the outlook is far from black for the Chargers. Consider the pluses:

(1) The Chargers scored 411 points. Only champion Pittsburgh exceeded that in the entire NFL.

(2) San Diego, with Fouts pitching, led the entire NFL in passing.

(3) The defense allowed fewer points, 246, than any team in the entire AFC.

(4) Only Houston, among all AFC teams, intercepted more passes than the Chargers' 28. In an era when passers accumulate yards by

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Wood, 73 points on 13 field goals and 34 PAT's... 15th
RUSHING—Williams, 200 carries for 752 yards, 3.8 avg., 12 TD's... 12th
PASSING—Fouts, 332 of 530 attempts for 4082 yards, 24 TD's... 1st
RECEIVING—Joiner, 72 receptions for 1008 yards, 14.0 avg., 4 TD's... 2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Lowe, 5 for 150 yards, 30.0 avg., 2 TD's... 10th
PUNTING—West, 75 punts, 36.5 avg., longest 62 yards... 14th
PUNT RETURNS—Fuller, 46 for 448 yards, 9.7 avg., 6th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Owens, 35 for 791 yards, 22.6 avg., 3rd

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 2 Green Bay (At Canton)
9 At Minnesota
16 SAN FRANCISCO (N)
23 ATLANTA (N)
30 At Los Angeles (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

September 7 At Seattle
14 OAKLAND
21 At Denver
28 At Kansas City
October 5 BUFFALO
12 At Oakland
19 NY GIANTS
26 At Dallas (N)
November 2 At Cincinnati
9 DENVER
16 KANSAS CITY
20 At Miami (N)
30 PHILADELPHIA
December 7 At Washington
13 SEATTLE
22 PITTSBURGH (N)

1979 SCORES

33-16
30-10
0-7
20-14
27-19
22-45
—
26-24
17-7
28-7
—
—
20-10
35-7

the carload, Fouts accumulated more than anyone, 4,082. He threw for 24 touchdowns and completed 332 passes. His 82.6 percent efficiency rating was the AFC's best.

"If someone asked me who the best clutch players were," says Bill Walsh, the San Francisco head coach who formerly served as the Chargers' quarterback coach, "I'd put Fouts in a category with Terry Bradshaw and Roger Staubach." Walsh gives Fouts especially high marks for his assertiveness, leadership, and intelligence.

Fouts also has the accomplices. John Jefferson, the rookie sensation of 1978, caught 61 passes for ten touchdowns and a 17.9-yard average in 1979. He made the Pro Bowl again. Even more productive was Charlie Joiner, who led AFC's wide receivers with 72 catches for a 14-yard average and 1,008 yards. Jefferson had 1,090 yards.

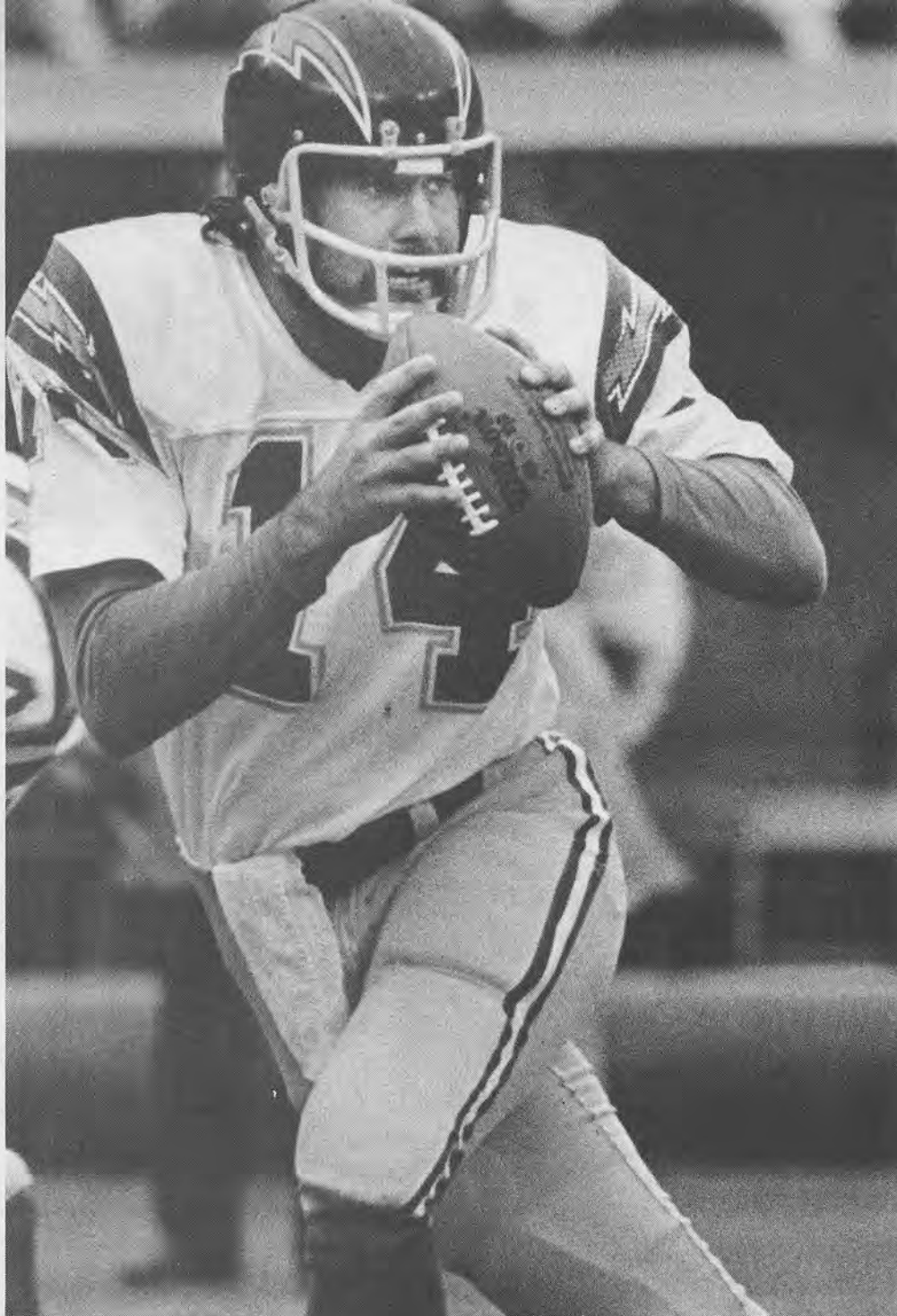
Bob Klein, primarily a blocker and short-yardage target, caught 37 passes for five touchdowns and an 11.5-yard average. This may be the year, however, when the Chargers make full use of young Kellen Winslow, the 6-5, 250-pound tight end who can run the 40-yard dash in 4.5. Winslow had modest statistics last year, 25 catches for 255 yards and two touchdowns, but his potential is vast.

Even though the running game is next to impotent, Clarence Williams still ran for a dozen touchdowns. He led the team in ground gaining with 752 yards and a 3.8-yard average. But Fouts likes to use him as a receiver, too. Williams caught 51 balls for 325 yards. Mike Thomas, the ex-Washington Redskin, was second in rushing with 353 yards and a 3.9 yard average. He caught 32 passes, averaging 12.1 yards per reception.

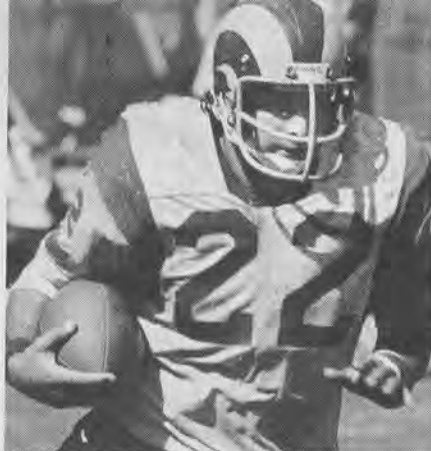
Lydell Mitchell, the ex-Baltimore star, had a disappointing year, but the Chargers made an off-season deal with Los Angeles to acquire John Cappelletti, the ex-Heisman Trophy winner. Cappelletti is no burner, but he can block and catch, which is important in the San Diego system.

There also is a special weapon, short-yardage beller Hank Bauer. He averaged only 1.3 yards on his 22 carries, but he got into the end zone eight times.

The only young guys in the offensive line are center Bob Rush and journeyman tackle Billy Shields. Only reserves Dan Audick and Ralph Peretta could step in if White and Wilkerson falter. The tackle situation is tougher.



San Diego quarterback Dan Fouts, offensive guard Doug Wilkerson, and wide receiver John Jefferson (far right)



CHARGERS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
60	Audick, D.	G	6-3	253	26	3	Hawaii
37	Bauer, H.	RB	5-11	200	26	4	Cal Lutheran
93	Bell, R.	DE	6-4	255	25	1	Rhode Island
6	Benirschke, R.	K	6-1	165	25	4	Cal. Davis
28	Buchanan, W.	CB	6-½	195	30	9	San Diego St.
87	Burton, L.	WR	6-1	195	29	5	Purdue
	Cappelletti, J.	RB	6-1	220	28	6	Penn St.
49	Carter, K.	DB	5-11½	190	25	1	Delaware St.
11	Cummins, S.	P	6-3	200	24	R	Hawaii
71	Dean, F.	DE	6-2½	230	28	6	La. Tech
73	DeJurnett, C.	DT	6-4	260	28	5	San Jose St.
48	Dove, J.	CB	6-2½	193	27	4	Colorado St.
27	Duncan, F.	SS	6-1	188	24	2	San Fran. St.
47	Edwards, G.	FS	6-0	183	33	10	Florida A&M
86	Floyd, J.	WR	6-1	195	24	2	N.C. La.
14	Fouts, D.	QB	6-3	210	29	8	Oregon
42	Fuller, M.	SS	5-9½	182	27	6	Auburn
50	Goode, D.	LB	6-2	231	29	7	Kansas
77	Hardaway, M.	T	6-9	305	26	2	Oklahoma
12	Harris, J.	QB	6-3½	221	33	11	Grambling
55	Horn, B.	LB	6-4	230	26	5	Oregon St.
83	Jefferson, J.	WR	6-1	198	24	3	Arizona St.
79	Johnson, G.	DT	6-3	252	27	6	Grambling
18	Joiner, C.	WR	5-11	183	33	12	Grambling
68	Jones, L.	DE	6-8	260	30	5	Norfolk St.
74	Kelcher, L.	DT	6-4½	282	27	6	SMU
57	King, K.	LB	6-4	230	25	3	Colorado St.
17	Kirkland, M.	QB-P	6-1½	190	26	4	Arkansas
84	Klein, B.	TE	6-5	237	33	12	USC
54	Lastavich, J.	LB	6-2½	236	29	7	Penn St.
69	Lee, J.	DE	6-2	259	27	5	Nebraska
51	Lowe, W.	LB	6-0	227	26	5	Alabama
62	Macek, D.	G-C	6-2½	253	26	5	Boston Col.
41	Matthews, Bo	FB	6-3½	222	29	7	Colorado
88	McCrary, G.	TE	6-2	235	28	5	Clark
58	McGee, C.	LB	6-3	228	24	1	Duke
26	Mitchell, L.	RB	5-11	198	31	9	Penn St.
10	Olander, C.	QB	6-5	187	25	4	N. Mex. St.
24	Owens, A.	RB	5-11½	182	27	5	West Va.
53	Perretta, R.	C	6-1½	251	27	6	Purdue
52	Preston, R.	LB	6-0	218	26	5	Syracuse
56	Rush, B.	C	6-5	264	25	4	Memphis St.
44	Shaw, P.	SS	5-10½	178	26	4	Northwestern
66	Shields, B.	T	6-8	275	27	6	Ga. Tech
45	Stringert, H.	CB	5-11	187	28	6	Hawaii
22	Thomas, M.	RB	5-11	190	27	4	Las Vegas
59	Thrift, C.	MLB	6-2	232	24	2	E. Cen. Okla.
70	Washington, R.	T	6-7	288	34	13	Missouri
8	West, J.	P	6-2	210	27	6	Cincinnati
67	White, E.	G	6-2½	271	33	12	California
63	Wilkinson, D.	G	6-3	262	33	11	NC Central
40	Williams, C.	RB	5-10	195	25	4	S. Carolina
29	Williams, M.	CB	5-10	179	27	6	LSU
80	Winslow, K.	TE	6-5½	252	23	2	Missouri
16	Wood, M.	K	5-11	199	26	3	SE Missouri
33	Woods, D.	RB	6-2	208	29	7	New Mexico
99	Young, W.	DE	6-6	290	31	10	Wm. Penn

DRAFTTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
4	Luther, Ed	QB	6-3	206	23	San Jose St.
4	Gregor, Bob	S	6-2	187	23	Wash. St.
6	Harrington, LaRue	RB	6-0	210	23	Norfolk St.
6	Hamilton, Wayne	LB	6-4	230	22	Alabama
7	Loewen, Chuck	OG	6-3	259	23	S. Dakota St.
7	Dodds, Stuart	P	6-4	205	22	Montana St.
8	Sirmones, Curtis	RB	6-0	196	25	N. Alabama
9	Whitman, Steve	FB	6-3	230	23	Alabama
11	Singleton, John	DT	6-5	264	24	El Paso
12	Price, Harry	WR	5-11	182	24	McNeese St.

Offensive Chargers: ex-Ram running back John Cappelletti (#22), wide receiver Charlie Joiner, and running backs Clarence Williams (center left) and Lydell Mitchell spark San Diego.

The place-kicking took an odd twist, almost a tragic one. Rolf Benirschke, one of the NFL's best young kickers, connected on his first four field goals last year, then had to be placed on the inactive list because he contracted Crohn's disease, a colon ailment. He underwent delicate surgery. To replace him, the Chargers signed Mike Wood, who had a fine season, with 11 field goals in 14 attempts. All of Wood's misses were beyond the 50.

Benirschke, who faces a long recovery, vows a comeback attempt. "I have more incentive than ever to play, not just for myself, but to show people with similar diseases what can be done."

Jeff West's punting, rated last in the AFC, makes him a target for challenge.

Defensively, the Chargers are of championship quality. Fred Dean, one of the swiftest, quickest pass rushers in the NFL, was a starting end for the AFC in the Pro Bowl. Tackle Gary (Big Hands) Johnson also was on the Pro Bowl squad. The defensive lineman who contributed the most to the Chargers' season, however, was enormous Wilbur Young, the veteran from Kansas City who got into the lineup after tackle Louie Kelcher tore up a knee. When Young got his chance, he tore up enemy lines.

Now that Kelcher is back and healthy again, it will be interesting to see what defensive line coach Jerry Smith does with the excess talent. The pass rush produced 42 sacks last season and enemy running attacks averaged just 119 yards per game against San Diego.

With a line like they have, the Chargers can afford to play small, quick linebackers. They start two of them on the outside, Ray Preston is just six feet tall and weighs 218. Woodrow Lowe weighs 227, but he has to stretch to reach six feet. The middle backer, Bob Horn, 6-4 and 230, is developing into one of the better men at his position. Preston and Lowe tied for the Charger lead in interceptions with five each.

The defense boasts two of the best corners in the NFL, Mike Williams on the right side and Willie Buchanan, the ex-Green Bay Pro Bowler, on the left. An oddity was that Buchanan, who intercepted four Charger passes for the Packers in one game in San Diego the season before, did not intercept one pass during the 1979 season. Mike Fuller, who started 66 consecutive games, is the strong safety. Glen Edwards, the ex-Pittsburgh Steeler, beat out Pete Shaw for the free-safety assignment. Fuller, one of the most dependable punt returners, averaged 9.7 yards on 46 returns. Artie Owens averaged 22.6 yards on his 35 kickoff returns.

Among the offensive reserves are wide receivers Larry Burton and John Floyd, center Don Macek (who started six games), running backs Bo Matthews and Don Woods, and quarterback James Harris. Other reserves include defensive end Charles DeJurnett, who started four games; linebackers Don Goode, Clifford Thrift, and Keith King; and defensive backs Jerome Dove and Hal Stringert.

The most useful rookie may be Larue Harrington, a Norfolk State speedster who might have gone higher in the draft if he were not re-

turning from knee surgery. Other interesting draftees include quarterback Ed Luther of San Jose State, defensive back Bob Gregor of Washington State, and linebacker Wayne Hamilton of Alabama.

An important coaching addition is Dave Levy, longtime offensive line coach at Southern California. He replaces Jim Hanifin, who is the new head coach of the St. Louis Cardinals.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS Can the Seattle Seahawks do in 1980 what the San Diego Chargers did in 1979? In 1978, the Chargers did not make the play-offs, but they were a team on the verge. They had won seven of their last eight games. Before the 1979 season began, they were the favorites to win the Western Division championship. They won it.

Seattle's similarity to San Diego is eerie. The Seahawks won five of their last six (ironically, it was Kansas City which was the only team to beat Seattle down the stretch, just as the Chiefs were the only team to beat San Diego down the 1978 stretch).

Seattle has firepower in great quantity: promising young defensive players, a quarterback who is among the best in the NFL, a coach who defies the percentages, a gambling style which makes them an admired team far beyond the vicinity of the Pacific Northwest. The question is whether the Seahawks are merely fast finishers who slog around early in the season, making their late-season surge merely an oddity instead of something which gets them into the play-offs. In 1978, the skeptics point out, they also won four of their last five. And the Seahawks have more to contend with in the AFC West than San Diego did last year: the champion Chargers themselves and a Denver team which may have balanced its superb defense with the acquisition of Matt Robinson.

The argument in favor of Seattle starts with the ability to score. There were only three teams which surpassed the Seahawks' 378 points last year: Pittsburgh with 416 and San Diego and New England, each with 411.

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Herrera, 100 points on 19 field goals and 43 PAT's... 5th
RUSHING—S. Smith, 194 carries for 775 yards, 4.0 avg., 11 TD's... 9th
PASSING—Zorn, 285 of 505 attempts for 3661 yards, 20 TD's... 4th
RECEIVING—Largent, 66 receptions for 1237 yards, 18.7 avg., 9 TD's... 4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Brown, 5 for 46 yards, 9.2 avg., 18th
PUNTING—Weaver, 66 punts, 40.2 avg., longest 60 yards... 9th
PUNT RETURNS—Green, 16 for 121 yards, 7.6 avg., 13th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Moore, 31 for 641 yards, 20.7 avg., 12th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 7 ATLANTA (N)
18 MIAMI (N)
23 At San Francisco (N)
29 NEW ENGLAND (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

1979 SCORES

September	7 SAN DIEGO	16-33
	14 At Kansas City	21-37
	21 NEW ENGLAND	—
	28 At Washington	—
October	5 At Houston	34-14
	12 CLEVELAND	29-24
	19 At NY Jets	30-7
	26 At Oakland	29-24
November	2 PHILADELPHIA	—
	9 KANSAS CITY	6-24
	17 OAKLAND (N)	27-10
	23 At Denver	34-37
	27 At Dallas	—
December	7 NY GIANTS	—
	13 At San Diego	10-20
	21 DENVER	28-23

By the familiar formula NFL coaches use—five seasons as a starter—Jim Zorn is about to approach his peak years as an NFL quarterback. He has four seasons as Seattle's starter in his background and he's only 27. In those four seasons he has accounted for 76 touchdowns, passing and running. He also went far over the 10,000-yard passing mark.

Last season was Zorn's best. He threw for 20 touchdowns and 3,661 yards, his second straight year over 3,000 yards. Only Dan Fouts of San Diego and Terry Bradshaw of Pittsburgh exceeded his 1979 yardage. He finished sixth in the NFL in efficiency rating. His interception percentage dropped to a career low 3.6. He didn't run as often as he has in the past, but Zorn's 6.1-yard average when he did carry the ball was his highest yet. In the day of the mobile quarterback, he may be the most mobile.

"He is now fully trained so he should be much more consistent," says Jack Patera, his coach.

There was a time when opposing defenses overloaded on Zorn's major target, Steve Largent. No more. Largent is just as dangerous as he ever was. He led the NFL in reception yardage with 1,237 yards, the only receiver in the seventies to exceed 1,200, but he has a lot more help now. Sam McCullom blossomed and caught 46 passes for a 16.1-yard average. Speedy Steve Raible caught 20 for a 12.6-yard average.

Largent, who caught 66 passes and scored nine touchdowns, had post-season surgery because of a broken wrist. The break did not heal properly so the wrist was placed in a cast which came off just before training camp. That was one of Patera's major worries. Largent is an enormous part of the Seattle offense.

The Seahawks are not a team which throws to the tight end often. Brian Peets caught 25 last

Seattle quarterback Jim Zorn (right) completed 56 percent of his passes last year. His favorite target, Steve Largent, had 66 receptions.





Dan Doornink (top) came to Seattle from the Giants and had 8 TD's; Sherm Smith (center left) scored 11 times; Efen Herrera (center right) led Seahawks with 100 points; guard Ron Coder looks to recover from injuries.

year, but he'll be pushed by sophomore Mark Bell this time. Zorn does like to throw to his backs, however. Fullback Dan Doornink caught 54, but halfback Sherman Smith was even more effective with his 48 catches. He scored four times on passes and averaged 10.4-yards a reception.

An injury to David Sims, which ended his career, was the principal reason the Seahawks' ground game dropped off an average of more than 45 yards per game. Doornink, picked up from the New York Giants, is a plowhorse-type back, but he did a capable job for the

SEAHAWKS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
12	Adkins, S.	QB	6-2	214	25	4	Wichita St.
28	Allen, M.	WR	6-3	190	24	1	Wash. St.
76	August, S.	T	6-5	254	26	4	Tulsa
27	Beamon, A.	S	6-1	190	27	6	E. Texas St.
63	Bebout, N.	T	6-5	260	29	8	Wyoming
58	Beeson, T.	LB	6-3	240	25	4	Kansas
82	Bell, M.	TE	6-4	235	23	2	Colorado St.
31	Benjamin, T.	FB	6-3	225	25	4	Duke
68	Boyd, D.	DE	6-6	255	25	4	Oregon St.
22	Brown, D.	CB	6-2	190	27	6	Michigan
72	Bullard, L.	T	6-6	265	24	3	Jackson St.
53	Butler, K.	LB	6-4	225	24	3	Memphis St.
90	Carter, T.	WR	6-1	195	25	R	Kent St.
60	Coder, R.	G	6-4	250	26	4	Penn St.
67	Cooke, B.	DT	6-5	250	29	6	Mass.
57	Cronan, P.	LB	6-2	238	25	4	Boston Coll.
33	Doornink, D.	FB	6-3	210	24	3	Wash. St.
91	Dorsey, L.	WR	6-0	190	27	4	Tenn. St.
25	Dufek, D.	S	6-0	195	26	4	Michigan
71	Eller, C.	DE	6-6	247	38	17	Minnesota
69	Filer, B.	T	6-4	250	25	3	W. Texas St.
86	Green, J.	WR	6-3	194	26	2	Tulsa
34	Green, T.	KR	5-9	185	24	3	Florida
77	Gregory, B.	DE	6-5	260	31	10	Wisconsin
75	Hardy, R.	DT	6-2	250	24	2	Jackson St.
44	Harris, J.	S	6-2	200	24	3	Arizona St.
1	Herrera, E.	K	5-9	190	29	6	UCLA
24	Hunter, A.	FB	5-11	195	25	4	Notre Dame
55	Jackson, M.	LB	6-1	220	23	2	Washington
26	Justin, K.	CB	5-11	175	25	3	Oregon St.
54	Kuehn, A.	C	6-3	255	27	5	UCLA
80	Largent, S.	WR	5-11	184	26	5	Tulsa
61	Lynch, T.	G	6-5	260	25	4	Boston Coll.
84	McCullum, S.	WR	6-2	190	28	7	Montana St.
32	Moore, J.	RB	6-0	195	24	2	Jackson St.
16	Myer, S.	QB	6-2	200	26	5	New Mexico
78	Newton, B.	G	6-5	260	31	10	Nebraska
52	Norman, J.	LB	6-1	220	24	2	Indiana
88	Peets, B.	TE	6-4	225	24	3	Pacific
50	Polowski, L.	LB	6-3	235	23	2	Boise St.
83	Raible, S.	WR	6-2	195	26	5	Ga. Tech.
92	Salzano, M.	T	6-4	250	23	1	No. Carolina
66	Sandifer, B.	DT	6-6	260	28	6	UCLA
81	Sawyer, J.	TE	6-2	230	27	5	So. Miss.
70	Sevy, J.	T	6-5	260	28	6	California
42	Simpson, K.	S	6-1	195	24	3	Memphis St.
47	Smith, S.	RB	6-4	225	26	5	Miami (O.)
2	Strecker, H.	K	6-1	180	24	1	Dayton
30	Tate, E.	RB	5-10	195	25	1	Miss. Coll.
74	Tulasosopo, M.	DT	6-3	252	23	2	UCLA
18	Weaver, H.	P	6-4	210	32	11	Tennessee
38	Webster, C.	CB	6-0	180	26	4	Tulsa
51	Yarno, J.	C	6-5	251	26	4	Idaho
46	Young, A.	S	6-3	173	24	1	Jackson St.
10	Zorn, J.	QB	6-2	200	27	5	Pomona

DRAFTTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Green, Jacob	DE	6-3	240	22	Texas A&M
2	Hines, Andre	OT	6-6	275	22	Stanford
4	Dion, Terry	DE	6-6	254	21	Oregon
5	Steele, Joe	RB	6-4	210	22	Washington
5	Jacobs, Dan	DE	6-7	265	22	Win-Salem
6	McNeal, Mark	DE	6-5	245	21	Idaho
8	Minor, Vic	DB	6-0	198	22	NE La.
8	Cosgrove, Jack	C	6-4	240	21	Pacific
9	Swift, Jim	OT	6-5	240	22	Iowa
10	Essink, Ron	OT	6-6	240	21	Grand Valley
10	Reaves, Billy	WR	6-6	205	22	Morris Brown
11	Ena, Tali	RB	6-0	192	22	Wash. St.
12	Gilbert, Presnell	DB	6-5	210	21	USI

Seahawks. He averaged only 3.3 yards a carry but scored eight touchdowns on the ground. The best back is Sherman Smith, the ex-college quarterback who broke in with Zorn.

"I had never taken a handoff in my life before I was switched to running back in my rookie year," says Smith. The injury to Sims also hurt Smith's effectiveness as his average dipped to four yards a carry, far below any of his previous seasons.

One of the principal priorities of offensive coordinator Jerry Rhyme should be to give Smith more space for his talents. One way may be to make more pronounced use of Al Hunter, who is the fastest back on the team. He had a 67-yard touchdown run against the Chicago Bears last season.

But the Seattle firepower doesn't end with the passing game or the runners. The Seahawks bill themselves as "the most exciting fourth-down team in football" and they get few arguments. The Seahawks gamble on fourth down. Their punter, Herman Weaver, was their second-leading passer in 1979, throwing from punt formation. He completed three of four for an average gain of more than 18 yards.

They also throw passes to their field goal kicker, Eren Herrera. In a game against Atlanta, he slipped through the defense on a fake field-goal alignment and caught a 20-yard pass from Zorn for a first down. Herrera also punts from field-goal formation. Twice he has dropped the ball within an opponent's five-yard line.

"We have the wildest kicking game I've ever seen," says special-teams coach Rusty Tillman.

When they play straight offense, the Seahawks also have one of the most promising offensive lines in the NFL. The strength is in center John Yarno, guard Tom Lynch, and tackle Steve August. Lynch and Yarno are looked upon by many pro scouts as future Pro Bowlers. Bob Newton and Ron Coder, both of whom were injured at times last year, fight it out for the right guard job. Veteran Nick Bebout and Louis Bullard, who was hurt in training camp in 1979, will contest the left tackle position.

When Herrera isn't catching passes he is one of the best field goalers in the NFL. He went 19 of 23 last season, including six of seven from within the 50.

The principal worry about the Seahawks is their defense. It allowed 14 more points last season than it had the year before. The total yield was 372. Only Cincinnati and the New York Jets were worse among AFC teams. Patera's hope is that all the kids he has been playing on defense mature at the same time. Two of them started as rookies at defensive tackle last year. Manu Tuiaosopo, the first-round draft choice, led the team with eight sacks. His partner, Robert Hardy, was a mere tenth-round draft choice, but he was among the NFL's most surprising newcomers.

The entire linebacking unit of Terry Beeson in the middle with Keith Butler and Michael Jackson on the outside, is young. Jackson started as a rookie last year. Beeson led the team in tackles for the third year in a row.

The end positions are a scramble. Carl Eller, the ex-Viking, started eight games, but he retired in early June. Bill Gregory is not the answer either.

Kerry Justin started two games at corner last year and will contest with Cornell Webster

this time. The other corner is Dave Brown, who is the only player to start all 60 games since the founding of the franchise. He led the Seahawks in interceptions with five. Free safety is a battle between Autry Beamon and the ex-starter, John Harris. Another top youngster is Keith Simpson, the No. 1 draftee of 1978, who won the strong safety job. He's a punishing hitter.

When Weaver isn't passing, he's a more than adequate punter.

The Seahawks made the pass rush their priority in the draft, selecting Jacob Green of Texas A&M, a defensive end who was considered the outstanding pass rusher in the senior class. Seattle was so eager to get Green that it traded its third-round pick to Buffalo in order to draft seven selections earlier. The sticky part is that Green will be one of the smaller defensive ends in the NFL, playing alongside two of the smaller tackles, Hardy and Tuiaosopo.

Later Seattle picked Stanford offensive tackle Andre Hines, who is reputed to be a polished pass blocker, and another defensive end, Terry Dion of Oregon. It took a later stab at finding a Sims-type back when it drafted Joe Steele, a home-towner from the University of Washington. Steele was an excellent college player, but he has serious knee surgery in his background. Other draftees of note were Daniel Jacobs, a defensive end from Winston-Salem State, and Idaho defensive end Mark McNeal.

OAKLAND RAIDERS The Oakland Raiders are becoming less a football team and more a political philosophy. Managing owner Al Davis, the dark angel of pro football, wants to move the Raiders to the Los Angeles Coliseum, despite decades of support, despite almost 13 seasons of sellouts, in the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum. Davis, who always placed himself on the side of old American Football League tradition and roots, now places himself on the side of potentially enormous profits from future cable television contracts.

The Raiders appear more interested in invalidating the NFL constitution than in qualifying for additional Super Bowls. They don't even seem to tolerate dissent as readily as they used to. Davis and quarterback Ken Stabler were not on speaking terms since Davis blamed the Snake for much of the team's 1978 decline. But Stabler made a remarkable comeback last year, passing for 3,615 yards and 26 touchdowns.

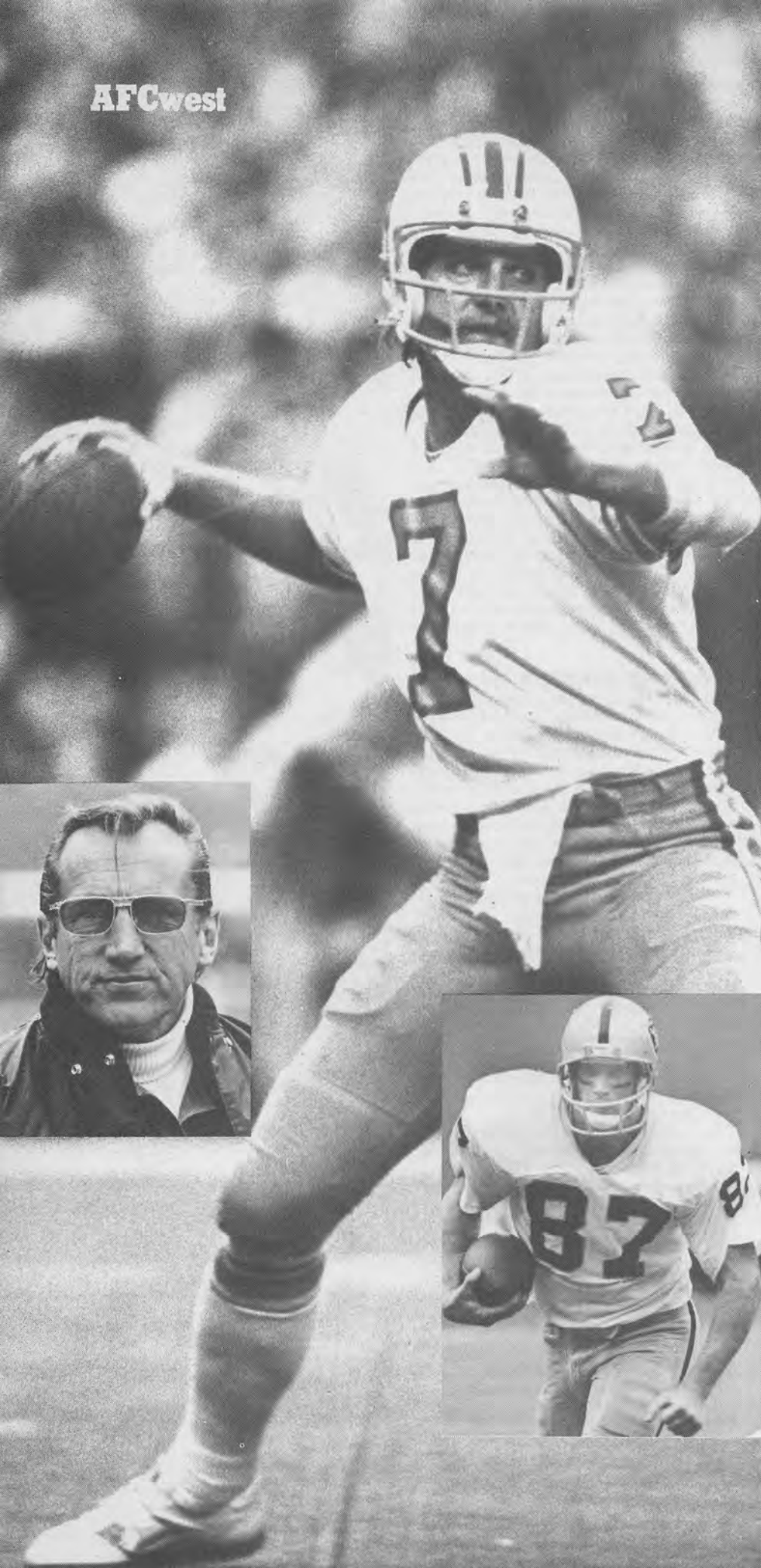
Yet, in a startling move, Stabler was traded to Houston in March for quarterback Dan Pastorini of the Oilers.

Davis has been paying so much attention to moving his offices from Oakland to Los Angeles—then back again from Los Angeles to Oakland when the switch of the franchise was stymied by NFL opposition, by the spider web of court cases which threatens to tie up the franchise move for years, by all the politics of the situation—that he hasn't seemed to notice that his team has crumbled.

The Raiders finished 24th in rushing among the 28 NFL teams last season. They finished 21st in pass defense. They were 20th in de-



Manu Tuiaosopo (top) started at DT as Seattle rookie; RB Joe Steele (middle) was a local draft pick; DB Dave Brown (right) is an original Seahawk.



fense against the run. They were 21st in overall defense. Two teams in their own division out-scored them. Three teams in their division allowed fewer points. The only bright spot in the statistics was a seventh place in NFL passing, but the main reason for the high finish is now in Houston.

Stabler for Pastorini? The comment of the Raiders' head coach, Tom Flores, over whose head the trade was made, should tell you something about that transaction.

"We are getting a fine quarterback," said Flores, after the trade was made. "But we are losing a great one."

Pastorini does not have Stabler's touch. He does not have Stabler's resourcefulness. He does not have his talent for improvisation. Pastorini is younger and stronger. He can throw the long ball.

The big question is who do the Raiders have who can catch the long ball anymore? Cliff Branch is now 32. He caught 59 passes last year, but his per-catch average slipped to 14.3. He caught six touchdown passes. Morris Bradshaw was hurt, but even when healthy he never has justified the Raiders' faith in his potential. Larry Brunson is a sometime thing. Rich Martini, a youngster with fair speed, has possibilities. Oakland also traded with Buffalo for 31-year-old Bob Chandler, who has been hurt for most of the last two years. They gave up 31-year-old linebacker Phil Villapiano in the deal.

Most of Stabler's success was with the double tight end system last year. Raymond Chester had a fine year, catching 58 passes and scoring eight touchdowns. Dave Casper, after missing a month of the season following an acrimonious holdout, caught 57 passes, three of them for scores. Both tight ends made the Pro Bowl.

Can Pastorini make do with the present setup? That is a serious question, particularly

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Breech, 95 points on 18 field goals and 41 PAT's... 7th
RUSHING—van Eeghen, 223 carries for 818 yards, 3.7 avg., 7 TD's... 8th
PASSING—Stabler, 304 of 498 attempts for 3615 yards, 26 TD's... 2nd
RECEIVING—Branch, 59 receptions for 844 yards, 14.3 avg., 6 TD's... 8th
INTERCEPTIONS—Hayes, 7 for 100 yards, 14.3 avg., 2 TD's... 3rd
PUNTING—Guy, 69 punts, 42.6 avg., longest 71 yards... 2nd
PUNT RETURNS—Matthews, 32 for 165 yards, 5.2 avg... 15th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Brunson, 17 for 441 yards, 25.9 avg... 1st

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 9 At San Francisco (N)
16 NEW ENGLAND (N)
23 At Washington (N)
30 PHILADELPHIA

1980 SCHEDULE 1979 SCORES

September	7 At Kansas City	7-35
	14 At San Diego	10-30
	21 WASHINGTON	—
	28 At Buffalo	—
October	5 KANSAS CITY	21-24
	12 SAN DIEGO	45-22
	20 At Pittsburgh (N)	—
	26 SEATTLE	24-29
November	2 MIAMI	13-3
	9 CINCINNATI	—
	17 At Seattle (N)	10-27
	23 At Philadelphia	—
December	1 DENVER (N)	27-3
	7 DALLAS	—
	14 At Denver	14-10
	21 At NY Giants	—

Oakland mastermind Al Davis (inset left) dealt Ken Stabler to Houston for Dan Pastorini (#7), who has premier tight end Dave Casper (#87) to throw to.

since Dan did not make the best use of his tight end in Houston, Mike Barber.

Considering the big trade for Pastorini, the Raiders did a curious thing with their first-round draft choice. They picked another quarterback, Marc Wilson of Brigham Young. Undoubtedly Wilson is a first-rank prospect, but Oakland needs so much help elsewhere that it seemed odd that Davis would take a quarterback. The Raiders did it once before in their past, when they drafted quarterbacks with their first two

RAIDERS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL		COLLEGE
						EXP		
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB	6-2	215	25	4		California
38	Bess, Rufus	CB	5-9	180	24	2		S.C. St.
81	Bradshaw, Morris	WR	6-1	195	28	7		Ohio St.
21	Branch, Cliff	WR	5-11	170	32	9		Colorado
5	Breech, Jim	K	5-6	155	24	2		California
73	Browning, Dave	DE	6-5	245	24	3		Washington
82	Brunson, Larry	WR	5-11	180	31	6		Colorado
87	Casper, Dave	TE	6-4	230	28	7		Notre Dame
60	Celotto, Mario	LB	6-3	235	24	2		USC
85	Chandler, Bob	WR	6-1	180	31	10		USC
88	Chester, Raymond	TE	6-4	235	32	11		Morgan St.
46	Christensen, Todd	TE-RB	6-3	230	24	2		Brig. Young
50	Dalby, Dave	C	6-3	250	30	9		UCLA
79	Davis, Bruce	T	6-6	280	24	2		UCLA
36	Davis, Mike	S	6-3	200	24	3		Colorado
8	Guy, Ray	K	6-3	190	31	8		S. Miss.
28	Harrison, Dwight	CB	6-1	180	32	9		Texas A&I
26	Hawkins, Clarence	RB	6-0	205	24	2		Florida A&M
37	Hayes, Lester	CB	6-0	195	25	4		Texas A&M
83	Hendricks, Ted	LB	6-7	225	33	12		Miami
11	Humm, David	QB	6-2	190	28	6		Nebraska
42	Jackson, Monte	CB	5-11	200	27	6		S. Diego St.
31	Jensen, Derrick	RB	6-1	225	24	2		Arlington
58	Johnson, Monte	LB	6-5	240	29	8		Nebraska
90	Jones, Willie	DE	6-4	245	23	2		Florida St.
33	King, Kenny	RB	5-11	205	23	2		Oklahoma
62	Kinlaw, Reggie	DT	6-2	240	23	2		Oklahoma
70	Lawrence, Henry	T	6-4	270	29	7		Florida A&M
53	Martin, Rod	LB	6-2	210	26	4		USC
89	Martini, Rich	WR	6-2	185	25	2		Cal-Davis
65	Marvin, Mickey	G	6-4	270	25	4		Tennessee
71	Mason, Lindsey	T	6-5	265	25	2		Kansas
43	Matthews, Ira	RB	5-8	175	23	2		Wisconsin
72	Matuszak, John	DE	6-8	280	30	8		Tampa
68	Medlin, Dan	G	6-4	250	31	7		N.C. St.
69	Meseroll, Mark	T	6-5	275	25	2		Florida St.
64	Moritz, Brett	G	6-4	240	25	2		Nebraska
57	McClanahan, Randy	LB	6-5	225	26	3		S.W. La.
44	Owens, Burgess	S	6-2	200	29	8		Miami
7	Pastorini, Dan	QB	6-3	205	31	10		Santa Clara
74	Pear, Dave	DT	6-2	250	27	6		Washington
47	Phillips, Charles	S	6-3	215	28	6		USC
77	Philyaw, Charles	DE	6-9	295	26	5		Tex. So.
27	Pough, Ernest	WR	5-11	175	28	4		Tex. So.
84	Ramsey, Derrick	TE	6-4	225	24	3		Kentucky
35	Robiskie, Terry	RB	6-1	210	26	4		LSU
34	Russell, Booker	RB	6-2	235	24	3		S.W. Texas
78	Shell, Art	T	6-5	280	34	13		MD-E.S.
80	Stewart, Joe	WR	5-11	180	25	3		Missouri
66	Sylvester, Steve	G-C-T	6-4	260	27	6		Notre Dame
67	Toomay, Pat	DE	6-6	245	32	11		Vanderbilt
63	Upshaw, Gene	G	6-5	255	35	14		Texas A&I
30	van Eeghen, Mark	RB	6-2	225	28	7		Colgate
75	Vella, John	T	6-4	260	30	9		USC
22	Whittington, Arthur	RB	5-11	180	25	3		SMU
45	Williams, Henry	CB	5-10	185	24	2		S. Diego St.
61	Winans, Jeff	DT	6-4	260	29	5		USC

DRAFTTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Wilson, Marc	QB	6-5	200	22	Brig. Young
2	Millen, Matt	DT	6-2	260	22	Penn. St.
5	Lewis, Ken	LB	6-2	235	22	Va. Tech
5	Adams, John	LB	6-3	235	21	LSU
5	Bowens, William	LB	6-2	230	22	N. Alabama
7	Barnwell, Malcolm	WR	6-0	180	22	Va. Union
8	Hill, Ken	DB	6-0	190	21	Yale
10	Carter, Walter	DT	6-3	245	22	Fia. St.
11	Massey, Mike	LB	6-2	230	22	Arkansas
12	Muhammad, Calvin	WR	6-0	180	22	Tex. So.

Oakland Raiders: RB Mark van Eeghen (#30), safety Charles Phillips (#47), wide receiver Cliff Branch (#21), and No. 1 draftee Marc Wilson (inset)



picks, Eldridge Dickey and Stabler, at the same time Daryle Lamonica was in his prime.

But Oakland was a team with far better all-around strength in those days, and the drafting was done far more judiciously. Not only have many of the top picks been traded away in recent years, but Davis has wasted many of those he kept. Considering the shoddy condition of the Oakland running game, it was a startling surprise the Raiders did not opt for Charles White, the Heisman Trophy tailback from USC, or Notre Dame's Vagas Ferguson, who remained on the drafting board at the time of Wilson's selection.

Mark van Eeghen, the rugged fullback, is in danger of being worn out from overuse and lack of support at the present setup. After two consecutive 1,000-yard seasons, van Eeghen slipped to 818 yards. The other runners are lacking. Arthur Whittington has speed but lacks durability. Terry Robiskie lacks speed and was hurt for most of the last two seasons. Derrick Jensen and Booker Russell are actually fullbacks. The Raiders traded veteran Jack Tatum to Houston and received Kenny King from them, but King actually is a fullback also.

Then there is the Raiders' offensive line. Guard Gene Upshaw, 35, and tackle Art Shell, 33, are over the hill. Davis is a big Mickey Marvin booster, but the young guard is considered overrated by most rivals. The strength is in tackle Henry Lawrence, center Dave Dalby, guard John Vella, and, to a lesser extent, in utility man Steve Sylvester.



Veteran linebacker Ted Hendricks (#83) makes another tackle for the Raiders.

"You can look at the statistics and see we didn't do very well defensively," says Flores, stating the obvious. The Raiders were terrible.

With Villapiano and Tatum gone, two spots are opened in the starting lineup. Not coinci-

dentally, the four draft picks after Wilson all were defenders and all have potential as linebacker. The No. 2 selection was Matt Millen, the competitive tackle from Penn State. He is a terrific player, but there are handicaps. He had a

67% (overall 8 year results)

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bad back in his senior year, restricting his effectiveness. He never has played linebacker. He is much shorter than the normal NFL down lineman. After Millen came Kenny Lewis of Virginia Tech, John Adams of LSU (a college defensive end), and William Bowens of Northern Alabama.

The veteran linebackers are 31-year-old Ted Hendricks and Rod Martin on the outside, with Monte Johnson inside. There is not much speed in that group. Jeff Barnes may move inside to take Villapiano's old job, unless Millen shows that he can make a contribution from the start.

On the defensive line, end Willie Jones and undersized tackle Reggie Kinlaw played a lot as rookies last year. Dave Pear, who cost two second-round draft choices in a trade with Tampa Bay, was a disappointment. John Matuszak still should have plenty of football left and sometimes he plays like it. Sometimes he doesn't. End Dave Browning is probably the most consistent of the Raider linemen. Davis is still trying to prove enormous Charles Phillyaw wasn't a laughable error. Pat Toomay feuded with the front office and didn't play at the start of the season, then was summoned during the season when things went badly. His future is cloudy.

With Tatum gone to Houston, Charles Phillips will probably be given a chance to take over his position. Phillips lost the strong safety assignment to young Mike Davis after a month of the season. The pride of the secondary was Lester Hayes, who had a big year. The Raiders thought he was of All-Pro caliber. His partner is second-year man Henry Williams.

Punter Ray Guy did not have a Ray Guy year. His 42.6-yard average was second best in the AFC, but his net average was just 33.8. Young place-kicker Jim Breech connected on 18 of 27 field goal attempts, but he is remembered best for blowing the Kansas City game by missing an 18-yard "gimme" at the final gun.

Brunson led the NFL in kickoff returns with a 25.9-yard average, but his teammate, rookie Ira Matthews, was more dangerous. Matthews returned twice as many kicks as the veteran and averaged 24.9. His 104-yard return for a touchdown keyed an upset over San Diego.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS The Kansas City Chiefs are a team on the rise. They finished last in the Western Division of the American Conference last year, but don't allow that to deceive you. They were the best last-place team in the NFL. If that sounds like faint praise, consider that the four other teams in the AFC West all had winning records. The Chiefs will have to leapfrog over Oakland and Seattle to improve marginally. But KC defeated both the Raiders and the Seahawks twice last season.

Marv Levy, the team's third-year coach, has KC on schedule, or ahead of it. His coaching rivals are just about unanimous in praise of him since he came down from Montreal of the Canadian League, where he coached a championship team. Levy changed the roster drastically over the last two years. He's best noted for playing a college offense, the Wing-T.

But the Chiefs won mostly because of their defense last year. That unit is full of good young

Kansas City DE Art Still (top) was All-Pro in just his second year; LB Gary Spani pressures Doug Williams.



AFC West



Chief stars of tomorrow: back Tony Reed (top) and quarterback Steve Fuller

players. Only San Diego and Denver allowed fewer points than the Chiefs.

The sound look of the defense is due mostly to sound drafting. Seven of the defensive starters were high draft choices in the last four years.

"We started out two seasons ago saying we had to rebuild our defense," says Levy. "This was where we had to improve first. I think we have made vast improvement in this area. We've strengthened our defensive line, which was our No. 1 objective. Our linebacking has definitely improved."

The three-man line had the first-round draft choices of the last two seasons at the flanks. End Art Still was a popular choice for All-Pro in just his second season.

"He really goes," says Levy of the 6-7 end. "He's the best end in the league against the run and he's really made strides against the pass." Still was a standup end-linebacker at Kentucky. He is still learning the pro game.

Last year's No. 1 pick, Mike Bell of Colorado State, came to the Chiefs recovering from knee surgery and missed five games. Levy says "he's as quick off the ball as anyone I've seen, and very strong." At nose tackle is Don Parrish, a quick third-year man who broke in with Still.

The Chiefs added a starting linebacker each of the last three years. The first one was Thomas Howard, then Gary Spani, and, last year, 245-pound Frank Manumaleuga. The fourth is Whitney Paul, who was injured part of last year. Manumaleuga is an intimidator in the fashion of Willie Lanier, the old All-Pro of the Chiefs' Super Bowl teams. Levy lauds Spani for his ability to lead, analyze plays, and get to the ball.

Last year, Levy melded two free-agent rookies, corner M.L. Carter and strong safety Jerry Reese, with two fine young vets, free safety Gary Barbaro and corner Gary Green. Levy thinks Barbaro and Green rate with the best.

Now there is another important addition. That is Eric Harris, a first-draft-choice caliber player with three year's experience in the Canadian League. Harris would have been drafted in the first round of the 1977 draft, but he signed

with Toronto instead. Despite knowing he had a commitment to the Argonauts, the Chiefs drafted Harris on the fourth round anyway. It was a future-book wager.

This season, the wager paid off. Harris became a free agent after the 1979 season. An even dozen NFL teams made offers to him by rules of the NFL's bargaining agreement with the players' union, the Chiefs had the right of matching the best offer in order to keep Harris. From among the 12 offers, Harris picked New Orleans. The Saints then had to submit their offer sheet, listing all the details of the proposed contract with Harris, to Kansas City. The Chiefs had the right to match it and keep Harris, or reject it and pass him up. They matched it. It cost them over \$1 million, but Harris will play in the Chiefs' secondary this season.

Now Levy is working on his attack. "It's obvious we have to turn our attention to strengthening our offense," he says. He isn't exactly starting from scratch. For the last two seasons, his Wing-T boasted two of the best young runners in football, Ted McKnight and Tony Reed. McKnight ran for 755 yards, a 4.9-yard average and eight touchdowns last year. Reed, injured part of the season, added 446 yards, but he has 1,000-yard potential.

1979 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

SCORING—Stenerud, 64 points on 12 field goals and 28 PAT's... 20th
RUSHING—McKnight, 153 carries for 755 yards, 4.9 avg., 8 TD's... 11th
PASSING—Fuller, 146 of 270 attempts for 1484 yards, 6 TD's... 14th
RECEIVING—McKnight, 38 receptions for 226 yards, 5.9 avg... 36th
INTERCEPTIONS—Barbaro, 7 for 142 yards, 20.3 avg., 1 TD... 2nd
PUNTING—Grupp, 89 punts, 43.6 avg., longest 74 yards... 1st
PUNT RETURNS—Smith, 58 for 612 yards, 10.6 avg., 2 TD's... 2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Belton, 22 for 463 yards, 21.0 avg... 10th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 9 CLEVELAND (N)
18 MINNESOTA (N)
23 At St. Louis (N)
30 San Francisco (N at Tucson)

1980 SCHEDULE

1979 SCORES

September	7 OAKLAND	35-7
	14 SEATTLE	37-21
	21 At Cleveland	24-27
	28 SAN DIEGO	14-20
October	5 At Oakland	24-21
	12 HOUSTON	6-20
	19 At Denver	3-20
	26 DETROIT	—
November	2 BALTIMORE	14-0
	9 At Seattle	24-6
	16 At San Diego	7-28
	23 At St. Louis	—
	30 CINCINNATI	10-7
December	7 DENVER	10-24
	14 At Pittsburgh	3-30
	21 At Baltimore	10-7

"McKnight doesn't have great speed, but he has great acceleration," says Levy. "He can get out of the pack when he's five yards past the line of scrimmage. That's acceleration." Reed blocks, catches, and runs well. He could be one of the NFL's coming stars.

The Chiefs need a big fullback between them in KC's antiquated formation. It could be rookies James Hadnot, the third-round draftee from Texas Tech, a 240-pounder who converted from tight end. If not, then undersized Arnold Morgado, the short-yardage specialist who spent most of the season on the injury list, could go back there.

Quarterback should be a settled issue for years to come. The brainy Steve Fuller beat out Mike Livingston in the midst of his rookie season. Kept under control by Levy, Fuller did

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AFC West

Kansas City center Jack Rudnay



Bob Grupp, the NFL's leading punter



Veteran place-kicker Jan Stenerud

not amass any special statistics (1,484 yards, six touchdowns, and 14 interceptions). The ex-Clemson star should be able to go off on his own more this season.

Levy made the 33-year-old Livingston expendable by signing another Canadian League star, Tom Clements, the ex-Notre Damer. Clements is active and heady, if not a great passer. Great passers aren't really needed in the Wing-T.

The most frequent targets last year were the two running backs, McKnight and Reed. If Had-not breaks into the lineup, his experience as a tight end might fit in well with how the Chiefs attack.

J.T. Smith was one of the NFL's surprise players last year. Signed as a free agent defensive back by Washington the year before, he was dropped six games into the season. KC wanted him as a wide receiver, his high school position. He ended up alternating with Henry Marshall in the one wide receiver position the Chiefs use. J.T. caught 33 passes, including three for touchdowns. As a bonus, he also averaged 10.6 yards on his 58 punt returns, third best in the NFL. His two returns for touchdowns led the league. When he returned a punt of 55 yards for a touchdown against Houston, it was the first time in 12 years that a Kansas City returner had gone all the way. The next week he took a punt 80 yards for a touchdown against Oakland.

Marshall caught only 21 passes, but his 15.8 yard per-catch average was the best among the busiest Chief receivers. With Walter White gone to Los Angeles in a trade, Andre Samuels is the tight end of record, with Ed Beckman backing him up. The tight end, in Levy's system, is more blocker than receiver.

The offensive line is a veteran one. The most veteran of the Chiefs is 32-year-old center Jack Rudnay, who is still a serviceable veteran. Tom Condon and Bob Simmons are the guards, but there could be an important change there. The Chiefs made huge Brad Budde their No. 1 draftee, and it was not just because Brad's father, Ed, was one of the team's all-time stars at the same position. The younger Budde can play, probably well enough to force his way into the lineup almost immediately. The tackles are veterans Charley Getty and Jim Nicholson, with Matt Herkenhoff back off the injury list to challenge someone.

One of the features of the KC improvement last year was the kicking game. Jan Stenerud, the 35-year-old place-kicker, can still do it. He connected on 12 of 22 tries. But the big news was punter Bob Grupp. Cut twice by the New York Jets, who originally drafted him as a defensive back, Grupp changed his style from three-step to two-step punter and was one of the finds of the season in pro football. His 43.6-yard average led the league in the overall category, but so did his net average, 37.2. He also dropped 23 punts within the 20-yard line and no one in the NFL did better in that specialty. As a bonus, he had the longest AFC punt of the year, 74 yards, which is also the longest in KC history.

The list of KC draftees also included line-backer Dave Klug, who was a hurdler at Concordia College; wide receiver Carlos Carson of Louisiana State; rugged defensive tackle Dan Pensick of Nebraska; wide receiver Bubba Garcia of Texas El-Paso; and running back Larry Heater of Arizona.

Spider Gaines, the Washington receiver who never got into uniform last year, is back, along with Steve Gaunt, who averaged 17.5 yards on his five catches before he was injured.

Reserves who may bid for more work include running back Earl Gant, safety Gerald Jackson, defensive ends Sylvester Hicks and Ken Kremer, linebackers Dave Rozumek and Cal Peterson, and offensive linemen Rod Walters, Larry Brown, and Charley Ane.

CHIEFS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE
90	Anderson, Curtis	DE	6-6	250	23	2	Cent. St.
56	Ane, Charlie	C	6-1	237	28	6	Mich. St.
26	Barbaro, Gary	S	6-4	204	26	5	Nicholls St.
85	Beckman, Ed	TE	6-4	226	25	4	Fla. St.
99	Bell, Mike	DE	6-4	255	23	2	Col. St.
35	Belton, Horace	RB	5-8	200	25	3	SE La.
57	Blanton, Jerry	LB	6-1	225	23	2	Kentucky
79	Brown, Larry	OT	6-5	264	25	3	Miami
42	Carter, M.L.	DB	5-9	173	24	2	Fullerton
68	Choma, John	OL	6-6	258	25	1	Virginia
41	Christopher, Herb	DB	5-10	190	26	2	Mor. Brown
	Clements, Tom	QB	6-0	190	27	1	Notre Dame
65	Condon, Tom	G	6-3	254	28	7	Boston Col.
80	Dirden, John	WR	6-0	190	28	3	Sam Houston
84	Dixon, Al	TE	6-5	220	26	4	Iowa St.
4	Fuller, Steve	QB	6-4	198	23	2	Clemson
23	Gaines, Robert	WR	6-2	187	23	1	Washington
	Gant, Earl	RB	6-0	207	23	2	Missouri
83	Gaunt, Steve	WR	5-10	175	23	2	N. Colorado
77	Getty, Charlie	OT	6-4	269	28	7	Penn. St.
24	Green, Gary	DB	5-11	184	24	4	Baylor
1	Grupp, Bob	P	5-11	192	25	2	Duke
	Harris, Eric	DB	5-11	185	25	1	Memphis St.
34	Haslip, Wilbert	RB	5-11	212	24	2	Hawaii
60	Herkenhoff, Matt	OT	6-4	270	29	5	Minnesota
75	Hicks, Sylvester	DE	6-4	252	25	3	Tenn. St.
52	Howard, Thomas	LB	6-2	208	25	4	Texas Tech.
51	Jackson, Charles	LB	6-2	220	25	3	Washington
49	Jackson, Gerald	S	6-1	195	24	2	Miss. St.
82	Kellar, Bill	WR	5-11	194	24	3	Stanford
9	Kennedy, Bill	QB	6-4	210	25	2	N. Colorado
91	Kremer, Ken	DE	6-4	250	23	2	Ball St.
71	Lindstrom, Dave	DE	6-6	257	25	3	Boston U.
10	Livingston, Mike	QB	6-4	210	34	13	SMU
22	McKnight, Ted	RB	6-1	216	26	4	Duluth
54	Manumaleuga, Frank	LB	6-2	245	24	2	S. Jose St.
89	Marshall, Henry	WR	6-2	214	26	5	Missouri
21	Morgado, Arnold	RB	5-11	204	28	4	Hawaii
70	Nicholson, Jim	OT	6-6	275	30	7	Mich. St.
61	Parrish, Don	NT	6-2	249	25	3	Pittsburgh
53	Paul, Whitney	LB	6-3	220	26	5	Colorado
20	Perkins, Horace	DB	5-11	180	26	2	Colorado
50	Peterson, Cal	LB	6-4	220	27	5	UCLA
29	Powers, Clyde	S	6-1	195	28	6	Oklahoma
32	Reed, Tony	RB	5-10	197	25	4	Colorado
31	Reese, Jerry	S	6-3	192	25	2	Oklahoma
	Robinson, Joe	OT	6-4	255	24	1	Ohio St.
87	Rome, Stan	WR	6-5	205	24	2	Clemson
55	Rozumek, Dave	LB	6-1	222	25	5	N. Hampshire
58	Rudnay, Jack	C	6-2	242	32	11	N. western
81	Samuels, Tony	WB	6-4	233	25	4	B-Cookman
73	Simmons, Bob	OG	6-4	260	26	4	Texas
86	Smith, J.T.	WR	6-2	185	24	3	N. Tex. St.
59	Spani, Gary	LB	6-2	230	24	3	Kansas St.
3	Stenerud, Jan	PK	6-2	187	36	14	Montana St.
67	Still, Art	DE	6-7	252	24	3	Kentucky
76	Walters, Rod	OG	6-3	258	26	4	Iowa
40	Williams, Mike	RB	6-3	222	22	2	New Mexico

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Budde, Brad	G	6-4	255	22	USC
3	Hadnot, James	RB	6-2	245	22	Texas Tech
4	Klug, Dave	LB	6-4	229	21	Concordia
5	Carson, Carlos	WR	5-10	178	22	LSU
5	Pensick, Dan	DE	6-4	263	21	Nebraska
6	Garcia, Bubba	WR	5-11	185	22	El Paso
6	Heater, Larry	RB	5-10	202	22	Arizona
8	Stepney, Sam	LB	6-2	220	22	Boston U.
9	Donovan, Tom	WR	5-11	183	21	Penn St.
10	Martinovich, Rob	OT	6-5	265	21	Notre Dame
11	Markham, Dale	NT	6-8	280	22	No. Dakota
12	Brewington, Mike	LB	6-3	224	22	E. Carolina

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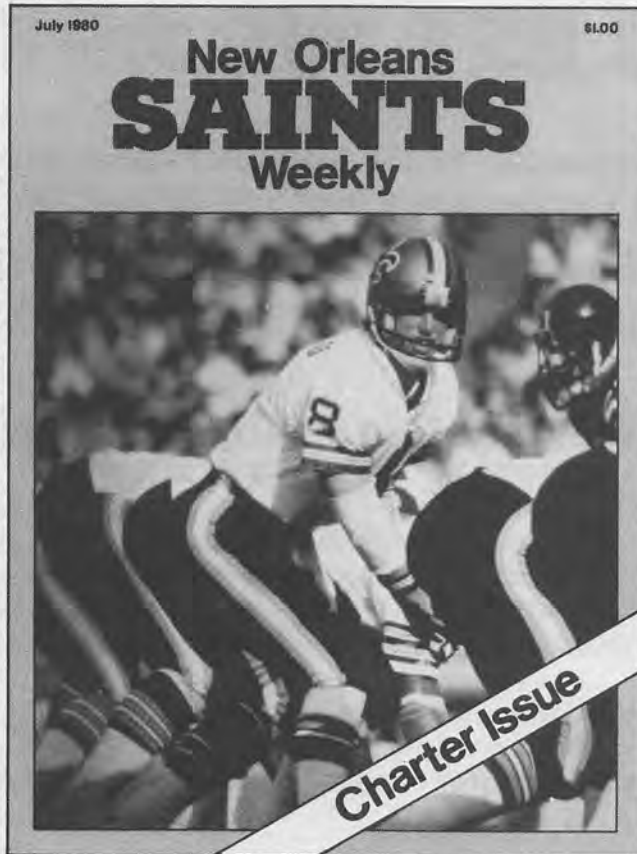
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5-0

Winning Weeks:

15-5

14-3

Perfect Weeks:

6

5

Pro's: ●13-0(10/21-28) ●11-0(11/26-12/9)

Colleges: ● 12-0 (11/3-10) ● New Year's Day Bowls 4-0 / +\$2400

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Buffalo	7	9	0	.438
Baltimore	5	11	0	.313

CENTRAL DIVISION

*Pittsburgh	12	4	0	.750
#Houston	11	5	0	.688
Cleveland	9	7	0	.563
Cincinnati	4	12	0	.250

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*San Diego	12	4	0	.750
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Oakland	9	7	0	.563
Kansas City	7	9	0	.438

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*Dallas	11	5	0	.688
#Philadelphia	11	5	0	.688
Washington	10	6	0	.625
N.Y. Giants	6	10	0	.375
St. Louis	5	11	0	.313

CENTRAL DIVISION

*Tampa Bay	10	6	0	.625
#Chicago	10	6	0	.625
Minnesota	7	9	0	.438
Green Bay	5	11	0	.313
Detroit	2	14	0	.125

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*Los Angeles	9	7	0	.563
New Orleans	8	8	0	.500
Atlanta	6	10	0	.375
San Francisco	2	14	0	.125

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Oilers 13, Denver 7 • Eagles 27, Bears 17

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Steelers 34, Dolphins 14 • Rams 21, Cowboys 19

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Steelers 27, Oilers 13 • Rams 9, Buccaneers 0

SUPER BOWL XIV

Steelers 31, Rams 19

AFC-NFC PRO BOWL

NFC 37, AFC 27

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

At Pittsburgh, PA, Jan. 6, 1980

Houston	7	3	0	3—13
Pittsburgh	3	14	0	10—27

SCORING

Houston: Perry 75-yard interception return (Fritsch PAT).
 Pittsburgh: Bahr 21-yard field goal.
 Houston: Fritsch 27-yard field goal.
 Pittsburgh: Cunningham 16-yard pass from Bradshaw (Bahr PAT).
 Pittsburgh: Stallworth 20-yard pass from Bradshaw (Bahr PAT).
 Houston: Fritsch 23-yard field goal.
 Pittsburgh: Bahr 39-yard field goal.
 Pittsburgh: Bleier 4-yard run (Bahr PAT).

TEAM STATISTICS

	Houston	Pittsburgh
First downs	11	22
Rushes-yards	22-24	36-161
Passing yards	212	219
Return yards	147	90
Passes	20-29-1	18-30-1
Punts	4-30	3-51
Fumbles-lost	4-2	1-1
Penalties-yards	2-10	5-34
Attendance	50,475	

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Houston—Campbell 17-15, Wilson 4-9, Caster 1-0;
 Pittsburgh—Harris 21-85, Bleier 13-52, Bradshaw 1-25,
 Thornton 1-minus 1.
 Passing: Houston—Pastorini 19-28-1—203; Pittsburgh—
 Bradshaw 18-30-1—219.
 Receiving: Houston—Wilson 7-60, Coleman 2-46, Carpenter 5-23,
 Renfro 3-52, Merkens 1-12, Barber 1-8; Pittsburgh—
 Stallworth 3-52, Swann 4-64, Harris 6-50, Bleier 3-39,
 Cunningham 2-14.

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

At Tampa Bay, Florida, Jan. 6, 1980

Los Angeles	0	6	0	3—9
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	0—0

SCORING

Los Angeles: Corral 19-yard field goal.
 Los Angeles: Corral 21-yard field goal.
 Los Angeles: Corral 23-yard field goal.

TEAM STATISTICS

	Los Angeles	Tampa Bay
First downs	23	7
Rushes-yards	53-216	26-92
Passing yards	153	85
Return yards	104	120
Passes	12-23-0	5-27-1
Punts	5-37.2	8-37.1
Fumbles-lost	1-1	1-0
Penalties-yards	3-20	4-45
Attendance	72,033	

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Los Angeles—Tyler 28-86, Bryant 18-106,
 McCutcheon 6-26, Ferragamo 1-minus 2; Tampa Bay—
 Bell 20-59, Eckwood 2-5, J. Davis 2-4, Rae 1-0, Mucker 1-24.
 Passing: Los Angeles—Ferragamo 12-23-0—163; Tampa Bay—
 Williams 2-13-1—12, Rae 2-13-0—42, Eckwood 1-1-0—42.
 Receiving: Los Angeles—Bryant 4-39, Dennard 3-56,
 Tyler 1-14, Young 3-39, Nelson 1-15; Tampa Bay—Bell 2-12,
 Mucker 1-42, Hagins 2-42.

SUPER BOWL XIV

At Pasadena, California, Jan. 20, 1980

Los Angeles	7	6	6	0—19
Pittsburgh	3	7	7	14—31

SCORING

Pittsburgh: Bahr 41-yard field goal.
 Los Angeles: Bryant 1-yard run (Corral PAT).
 Pittsburgh: Harris 1-yard run (Bahr PAT).
 Los Angeles: Corral 31-yard field goal.
 Los Angeles: Corral 45-yard field goal.
 Pittsburgh: Swann 47-yard pass from Bradshaw (Bahr PAT).
 Los Angeles: R. Smith 24-yard pass from McCutcheon
 (Kick failed).
 Pittsburgh: Stallworth 73-yard pass from Bradshaw (Bahr PAT).
 Pittsburgh: Harris 1-yard run (Bahr PAT).

TEAM STATISTICS

	Los Angeles	Pittsburgh
First downs	16	19
Rushes-yards	29-107	37-84
Passing yards	194	309
Return yards	104	209
Passes	16-26-1	14-21-3
Punts	5-44.0	2-42.5
Fumbles-lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-yards	2-26	6-65
Attendance	103,985	

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Los Angeles—Tyler 17-60, McCutcheon 5-10,
 Bryant 6-30, Ferragamo 1-7; Pittsburgh—Harris 2-46,
 Bleier 10-25, Bradshaw 3-9, Thornton 4-4.
 Passing: Los Angeles—Ferragamo 15-25-1—212,
 McCutcheon 1-1-0—24; Pittsburgh—Bradshaw 14-21-3—309.
 Receiving: Los Angeles—Bryant 3-21, Tyler 3-20,
 McCutcheon 1-16, Nelson 2-20, Waddy 3-75, R. Smith 1-24,
 Dennard 2-32, D. Hill 1-28. Pittsburgh—Harris 3-66,
 Cunningham 2-21, Swann 5-79, Stallworth 3-121,
 Thornton 1-22.

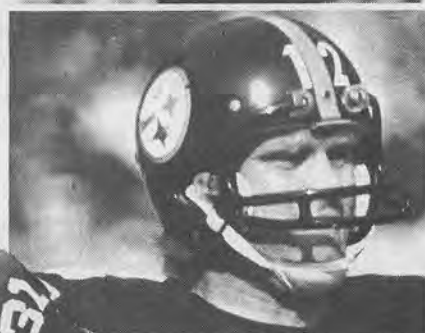
The Steelers captured their fourth Super Bowl thanks to hard work by center Mike Webster (#52), running back Franco Harris (#32), QB Terry Bradshaw, and safetyman Donnie Shell and linebacker Robin Cole (#56).

1979

Final Standings

Super Bowl

and Recap



PAYTON'S PLACE:

best ever in NFL?

To those who regularly see him play, the question of Walter Payton's ability goes beyond the all-star teams of the moment. The Chicago Bear has become a player for the ages.

It is not at all difficult to argue that he is the best football player in the National Football League today; what is more intriguing is to call him the best football player ever. No less an authority than Bears' general manager Jim Finks has this to say: "It is grossly unfair to judge Walter Payton solely on the yards he gains. He is a complete football player, better than Jim Brown, better than O.J. Simpson."

His blocking makes him easily superior to Brown or Simpson as a total football player. He has lasted longer than Gale Sayers. He catches passes better than Earl Campbell, who is usually on the bench during passing situations.

For Finks to heap such praise is not as gratuitous or self-serving as it may at first sound. Finks might have drafted Payton in 1975, but he also must pay him. Currently, Payton's \$450,000 salary makes him the highest paid player in the game. After the 1980 season, Payton's contract expires and attorney Bud Holmes is expected to renew his bid to make Payton the highest paid player ever. Holmes aimed for Simpson's \$733,358 during the last negotiation period in 1978 before settling for better than 60 percent of it.

If calling Payton the best player ever ignores defense, where everybody says the best athletes cavort, consider more testimony from men who should know.

Doug Plank, the Bears' free safety known as a brutal hitter, says, "I'm just glad Walter doesn't play free safety."

Jack Pardee, Payton's first pro coach, was so defensively oriented that he did not mind losing the coin toss. One of his primary goals on defense was to score. Once, after a game in which Payton typically had done everything including make a tackle or two after interceptions, Pardee was asked to assess Payton's performance. Without tongue in cheek, Pardee proceeded: "I thought he played well, ran well, blocked well, pursued well, tackled well" It was difficult for Pardee to leave him on offense.

by Don Pierson

Neill Armstrong, Chicago's present coach, was asked whether he ever considered letting Payton play every position in a game. That question was asked with tongue in cheek, although in Chicago it is often necessary to contrive schemes to take the sports fan's mind off losing. Bill Veeck of the White Sox, for instance, used to devise regularly anything to make the paying customers forget about baseball. The Payton question was inspired by the memory of Campy Campaneris switching positions every inning for the Oakland Athletics in a game several years ago.

Armstrong was not at all taken aback by the proposal. Payton is the Bears' backup punter and place-kicker. His passing is a weapon Armstrong may unveil in the 1980's. Only twice has he thrown the halfback option in games, once for a 54-yard touchdown. In practice, he rifles balls with accuracy. His blocking is legendary, not so much among the general public, but certainly in the film sessions of coaches and players who have been known to show particular Payton blocks again and again on their projectors.

"One day he came out in square-toed kicking shoes," said Armstrong. "He said, 'I can kick off.' I said 'I know you can, but I don't want to see you with your leg up in the air.' He'd probably kick it out of the end zone and wouldn't have to cover, but I don't want to see anyone get a shot at him."

"That kid could be the greatest one-man show ever seen. He could punt, kick off, kick extra points, field goals, pass, catch, block. A phenomenal athlete." And the kid is only 26 years old. He was only 20 when he reported to the Bears from Jackson State University.

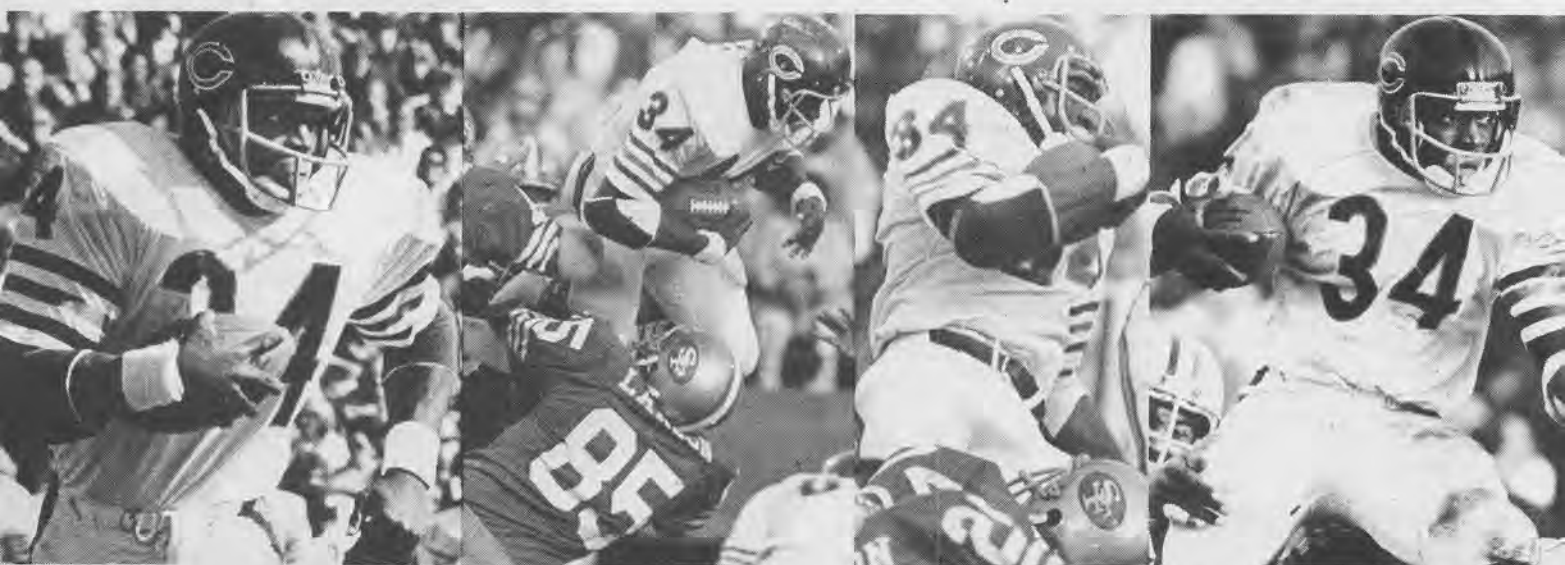
Now he is the player with the best shot at catching Jim Brown's remarkable rushing record of 12,312 yards. Simpson chased the mark for 11 years before retiring with 11,236. Brown reached his standard in 9 years.

"I won't play long enough to reach that record," says Payton. Then he smiles. "I might play eight years, but not nine. I'm not going to go out and get myself killed."

At Payton's current rate, however, he would reach Brown's mark in three and a half seasons. The key is number of games played, not seasons. Brown's seasons consisted of 12 and 14 games. He averaged 104 yards a game for 118 games. Payton, averaging 95 yards a game for 73 games is the only veteran runner close to Brown's average. Earl Campbell is averaging 101 yards after 31 games and will quickly become a factor at that rate.

Pittsburgh's Franco Harris, the leading active rusher with 8,563 yards, has averaged only 76 yards a game for 112 games. He enters his ninth year.

"I know down deep Walter looks at Jim Brown's record," says his attorney, Holmes. "He is very conscious of where he







Jack Pardee

Jim Finks



Jim Brown



Earl Campbell

Neill Armstrong



is in the all-time standing. I make him aware of where he is."

But yardage alone is unfair, says Finks, whose defense of his star is prompted by a remarkable fact: Payton failed to make All-Pro last year. He lost out to Campbell and rookie Ottis Anderson of St. Louis. The reason? Payton trailed Anderson in yardage for most of the year, right up until the final game in Soldier Field, Chicago, when Payton showed the rookie that seasons last 16 games, not 15. In cold and snow that Anderson had never seen, let alone played in, Payton gained 157 yards and Anderson gained 39 before limping to the bench in the first half. The performance enabled Payton to make up a 114-yard deficit on Anderson and win his fourth straight NFC rushing title.

Campbell outrushed him, 1697 to 1610, but Payton's 313 yards receiving compared to 94 yards by Campbell enabled Payton to outgain him easily in overall productivity. Only Philadelphia's Wilbert Montgomery, 1512 running and 494 receiving, outgained Payton.

While it is easy to argue that Payton stands out in the crowd, there is no denying the existence of a crowd. Rules, fan preference, and TV announcers may favor the forward pass, but no one has bothered to tell the runners yet. Payton was one of 12 runners who reached the 1,000-yard mark in 1980. Nine of them were in the NFC, where running still is more efficient than passing.

Although the magic of 1,000 yards has lost much of its luster in the diluted 16-game schedule, it is interesting to note that 9 of the 12 would have reached 1,000 in 14 games, according to their averages.

The sturdy dozen who refused to accept the trend toward more passing were:

Earl Campbell, Houston, 1,697
Walter Payton, Chicago, 1,610
Ottis Anderson, St. Louis, 1,605
Wilbert Montgomery, Philadelphia, 1,512
Mike Pruitt, Cleveland, 1,294
Ricky Bell, Tampa Bay, 1,263
Chuck Muncie, New Orleans, 1,198
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 1,186
John Riggins, Washington, 1,153
Wendell Tyler, Los Angeles, 1,109
Tony Dorsett, Dallas, 1,107
William Andrews, Atlanta, 1,023

Anderson and Andrews were rookies, leading a whole pack of first-year runners including Tampa Bay's Jerry Eckwood, Minnesota's Ted Brown, St. Louis's Theotis Brown, Detroit's Bo Robinson, Atlanta's Lynn Cain, and Cincinnati's Charles Alexander.

With Oklahoma's Billy Sims, Texas A&M's Curtis Dickey, Rice's Earl Cooper, Notre Dame's Vagas Ferguson, and Southern Cal's Charles White drafted in the first round this year, and Auburn's Joe Cribbs, Penn State's Matt Suhey, Jackson State's Perry Harrington, San Jose's Jewell Thomas, and Texas Tech's James Hadnot close behind, the future of running backs seems assured.

There is some evidence that the presence of so many gifted runners is more than coincidental. Gil Brandt, player personnel chief of the Dallas Cowboys, traces it to the popularity of the wishbone and veer attacks in college and, more importantly, in high schools. When high schools decide that passing is a more efficient way to move the ball, and many have leaned that way lately, the pros will soon benefit from an influx of talented quarterbacks. It does not take much to start a trend either. One high school in southern Ohio sent Art Schlichter to Ohio State and revolutionized the thinking of hundreds of coaches. The same high school sent a highly touted freshman to Notre Dame this year, Scott Grooms.

Chicago's Finks points out that pro coaches play the hands they are dealt. The recent emphasis on passing, and therefore on pass defense, has opened up the run.

"So much of running today is finding the hole," says Finks.

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"Years ago, everyone knew where the hole was supposed to be. But with the 3-4 defenses and other variations, backs have to slide, and stop and go. The big guy has trouble. Used to be you would never consider anyone smaller than 210, 215. A Greg Pruitt or Wendell Tyler wouldn't have been considered."

Last year, a little guy, Ted Brown, was rated by many teams to be better than O.J. Anderson. It did not take Anderson long to establish himself as the premier rookie and the man most likely to succeed, if not surpass, Campbell and Payton as the No. 1 back in the league.

Awesome was the word used to describe Anderson from his 193-yard debut against Dallas until his final week. The last game ended in disappointment, but not before his Chicago opponents spent the week with open mouths while watching film.

Wilbert Montgomery is the principal reason the Eagles have advanced from also-rans to the playoffs the last two years. Mike Pruitt took up the slack in Cleveland when Greg Pruitt got hurt. Ricky Bell finally reached the potential expected of him since he was a No. 1 draft choice in 1977.

"He used to have to shake off three or four tacklers before he got to the line of scrimmage," said Tampa Bay coach John McKay, noting the presence of an offensive line for the first time.

Chuck Muncie had his best year ever to help the Saints challenge in the NFC West. And Tyler, rapped for fumbling, led the league with a 5.1-yard average to put the Rams into the Super Bowl.

Campbell tacked a second sensational performance on to his great rookie year, and his current per-game average of 101 yards would enable him to surpass Brown in fewer than six seasons. That's a long time for a running back, too far ahead for a third-year man to start aiming.

Why are there more 1,000-yard runners in the NFC than in the AFC? Probably because there were more 3,000-yard passers in the AFC than in the NFC.

Seven AFC passers threw for more than 3,000 yards last season, led by the 4,082 of San Diego's Dan Fouts. Only four NFC passers reached the 3,000-yard mark and the best one, Dallas's Roger Staubach, retired.

NFC coaches traditionally have had a more conservative approach to offense, although this has changed recently with the addition of Ray Perkins in New York and Bill Walsh in San Francisco.

In the NFC Central, coaches have preferred to run the ball, because the weather has been too unpredictable to rely on the passing game consistently. Could this be why some of the all-time great runners—Cleveland's Brown, Buffalo's Simpson, Chicago's Sayers and Payton, Green Bay's Hornung and Taylor, and Minnesota's Foreman have played for cold-weather teams?

Could it be why the NFC Central should be able to boast of the finest array of young running talent in football with Payton, Detroit's Sims, Tampa's Ricky Bell and Eckwood, Minnesota's Brown, and Green Bay's Eddie Lee Ivey and Steve Atkins?

Or is it merely playing the hand that is dealt? The AFC traditionally has had the better quarterbacks, starting from the Terry Bradshaws, Ken Stablers, Dan Pastorinis, Bob Griese, Ken Andersons, Bert Joneses, and Joe Fergusons to the Jim Zorns and Richard Todds.

The Steve Bartkowskis of the NFC have not matched up. There are signs of improvement in people like Joe Theismann, who finished second to Roger Staubach in NFL rankings, Ron Jaworski, and veteran Archie Manning. There are younger prospects in Steve DeBerg, Tommy Kramer, Vince Ferragamo, Phil Simms, and Doug Williams.

But Staubach has retired and guess who took the top two quarterbacks in this year's draft—Oakland (Marc Wilson) and Pittsburgh (Mark Malone).

The NFC took the top runner, Billy Sims, and it looks like it will remain the dominant running conference for a while, with Walter Payton leading the pack.



Wilbert Montgomery



Franco Harris



Ottis Anderson



Wendell Tyler



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and Power Rating _____

Date of Game

Final Pointspread

Upcoming Opponents

Roster with position designation

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Complete statistical summary and the scores of team's previous games. Each past game will be included in this format.

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Complete team and opponent's first downs
Total passing yardage
Completions, pass attempts and interceptions
Total fumbles and fumbles lost
Rush attempts and total yards
Punt return, kickoff return and intercepted pass yardage
Number of punts and average
Number of penalties and yards penalized

Game outlook: analysis of each team's strengths and weaknesses, and prediction of the completion and outcome of game

MATCH-UPS—ROSTER—STATISTICS—PAST RESULTS—ANALYSIS

[illegible]

41 Lytle, B.B.	41 Hyde, G.	41 Gerra, x	41 Newman, B.B.
42 Fawn, C.B.	42 Marlow, D.E.	42 West, J.	42 Gerra, x
43 Evans, L.B.	43 Carter, D.T.	43 Gerra, Q.B.	43 Shaw, F.S.
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47 Nelson, L.B.	48 Thompson, J.	48 Jones, J.	47 Newman, B.B.
48 Wilson, L.B.	49 Thompson, J.	49 Thompson, J.	48 Shaw, F.S.
49 Wilson, L.B.	50 Thompson, J.	50 Thompson, J.	49 Strimling, C.B.
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93 Wilson, L.B.	94 Thompson, J.	94 Thompson, J.	93 Strimling, C.B.
94 Wilson, L.B.	95 Thompson, J.	95 Thompson, J.	94 Gerra, x
95 Wilson, L.B.	96 Thompson, J.	96 Thompson, J.	95 Newman, B.B.
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99 Wilson, L.B.	100 Thompson, J.	100 Thompson, J.	99 Newman, B.B.
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113 Wilson, L.B.	114 Thompson, J.	114 Thompson, J.	113 Strimling, C.B.
114 Wilson, L.B.	115 Thompson, J.	115 Thompson, J.	114 Gerra, x

[illegible]

YARDAGE		Game No. 12	
320.5	Yds. per game	351.1	Yds. per game
319.8	Opp. Yds. per game	276.2	Opp. Yds. per game
125.0	Yds. per game	119.4	Yds. per game
4.3	Yds. per pass	4.0	Yds. per pass
101.5	Yds. per run	4.0	Yds. per run
53.7	Opp. Yds. per game	64.6	Opp. Yds. per game
57.3	Opp. Pass. Yds. per game	72.9	Opp. Pass. Yds. per game
8.1	Yds. per pass	5.6	Yds. per pass
5.6	Yds. per run	5.6	Yds. per run

TURNOVERS																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	</
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ANALYSIS		(0-1)	WARREN POWERS		MISSOURI		PR: 108-105-108	
		(11-1)	125	Off: Veer	171K	(5-4)	NT	NT
			216.5	5 San Diego St (N/LIN/L)				
	W 33-16	113	1.5	11 at Illinois St (1 - 17K + 7' 1")				
	W 27-19	121	22 at Miss W - 8K + 6' 1")				45 15	
	W 31-2	16	29 Texas (25 - 8K + 6' 1")				L 14 6	
	W 16	16	0 13 Oklahoma St - 11K 1)				W 33 7	
	W 16	8.9	20 at Colorado St (13K + 13' 1")				L 0 21	
	W 16	8.9	27 Kansas St (8K - 10K + 7' 2")				L 13 14	
	W 16	8.7	21 Kansas St (8K - 10K + 7' 2")				L 13 17	
	W 16	8.7	N 10 at Texas St (14 - 15)				L 3 19	
	W 16	8.4	0 at Iowa St (14 - 15)				W 20 23	
	W 16	8.4	17 Oklahoma				W 20 23	
	W 16	8.4	24 at Kansas				W 20 23	

Opening & Closing
Pointspread

Illinois ⁶⁷ (+17)(+17½)	L 14-6									
Miss. ⁹⁰ (+8)(+6½)	W 33-7									
Texas ¹²⁵ (+1)(-1)	L 0-21									
Oklahoma ^{St.89} (+13)(+13½)	L 12									
Colorado ⁹⁶ (+10)(+7½)										
<table><tr><td>CHANGES</td><td>4.3</td><td>-53.1</td></tr><tr><td>Totals After 9 Games</td><td>NA</td><td>4.2</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>NA</td><td>NA</td></tr></table>		CHANGES	4.3	-53.1	Totals After 9 Games	NA	4.2		NA	NA
CHANGES	4.3	-53.1								
Totals After 9 Games	NA	4.2								
	NA	NA								

	MO	OPP	DIFF
Rsh All	146	172	
Rsh Yds	409	433	26
Avg Rsh	1490	1459	-24
Ps Comp	36	34	+31
Ps All	97	123	+02
Ps Yds	188	255	26
Had Int	1143	1389	67
Ret Yds	5	14	-246
Punts	411	281	9
Fum Lost	49 38 6	52 37 7	+130
Pen Yds	32 15	27 16	3 + 09
	38 390	49 49	

	POINTS	421	5:1
			11-31
Total Pts (Avg.)	MO	OPP.	
Time Pts (Avg.)	159(17.4)	121(13.4)	
Day Pts (Avg.)	81(16.2)	92(18.4)	
	78(19.5)	29(7.3)	
	POINTS SPREAD		
	HOME	AWAY	
at Record	1-4		
ad Record	1-4	4-0	
d as Favorite	1-3	- 2-2	
d as Underdog	0-2	4-0	
e vs Spread	0-2	0-0	
og vs Spread	0-2		

Pointspread
Standings

100

COLLEGE

COLLEGE TEAMS

28 PRO TEAMS

Pointspread Standings

100 COLLEGE TEAMS

28 PRO TEAMS

by **DON PIERSON**

It is one thing for Roger Staubach to leave the Dallas Cowboys. But did he have to leave the National Football Conference, too? The Cowboys should be able to mend their image, if not their team. But what about the NFC?

Through all the harassment, all the Super Bowl losses, all the accusations of failure linked to old owners, cold weather, stodgy coaches, and shaky quarterbacking, the NFC could point with pride to Roger Staubach. When he retired last winter, he was No. 1 on the all-time list of NFL passers—ahead of all the AFC quarterbacks who used to beat him out for All-Pro, ahead of Bob Griese and Bert Jones and Ken Stabler and Terry Bradshaw.

Staubach may have lost a couple of Super Bowls, but he is the only NFC quarterback besides Green Bay's Bart Starr ever to win one. And even when Staubach lost, as he did to Pittsburgh in his final appearance in Super Bowl XIII, who could forget what he said a week later after guiding the NFC to victory in the Pro Bowl:

change will be for the better remains to be seen. There is stirring among all 14 clubs. Some of them might only be rolling over and will soon play dead again. But at least there is movement.

A good sign is that the movement is not among the coaches, for it has been shown that indiscriminate switching of coaches stalls a football team's progress more often than it enhances it. Unlike two seasons ago, when half the coaches in the NFC changed jobs, only one new coach was hired for this year—St. Louis's Jim Hanifan. And Hanifan is returning to a situation he had helped build into respectability.

No longer is it a boring, foregone conclusion that Dallas, Minnesota, and Los Angeles will rule the East, Central, and West Divisions. During the decade of the seventies, Dallas, Minnesota, and Los Angeles won 22 of the 30 division titles. The only year when at least two of those three did not win was in 1972, when Washington, Green Bay, and San Francisco completed a sweep of foreigners.

This year, only one of the big three—Los Angeles—can be favored to win its division. Dallas and Minnesota are regrouping at the same time that Washington, Philadelphia, Tam-

Carson

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Selmon



"We won the big one."

First Fran Tarkenton abandons the NFC ship; now Staubach. Can the once proud league ever recover? Is it doomed forever as a grandfather turned senile? Will it ever return to the glory days of Monday night football? Will it ever return to the glory of Monday night football half-time highlights?

Surely Roger Staubach did all he could to preserve the American way in the National Conference. Now the NFC, 16-36 against the AFC last season, must fend without him. Staubach will be missed. But at the same time his absence is indicative of an upheaval in the NFC that has shaken every franchise. These are times of change in the NFC. Whether the



Dierdorf



Theismann

Buccaneers' notoriously easy fifth-place schedule, but the Buccaneers won the Central division by beating the other teams in it, not by padding its record against the likes of the New York Giants or Kansas City Chiefs. The Chicago Bears, playing a notoriously hard fourth-place schedule, lost to the Buccaneers because of a poorer record within the Central division, not because they lost to Dallas or New England.

So disparaging Tampa Bay's accomplishment is a waste of time. The Buccaneers, after all, had the No. 1 defense in the NFL, ahead of Pittsburgh.

The Bucs proved coach John McKay's notion that health is the key ingredient to success. They progressed from last to first in the division without benefit of a 1979 No. 1 draft choice. The main difference was an injury-free year for running back Ricky Bell and quarterback Doug Williams and defensive end Lee Roy Selmon.

Sure, the Bucs have a schedule this year that

is twice as tough as last year's. This is the year the two Central divisions face each other and everybody knows the old "black and blue" reputation belonging to the NFC has long since resided in the AFC. But Tampa Bay does get to play Dallas. Think about that one for a minute.

The apparent dismantling of a dynasty is the story of the NFC-1980. If the Cowboys weren't "America's Team," they were easily "America's NFC Team," the glamor franchise of the 1970's. More than any other team, it was the Cowboys who led pro football's march into the television age of glitter and gold, of bright lights and cheerleaders, of computer programming and confusing offense. When books and movies were made of pro football, they were written by and about the Dallas Cowboys.

When big plays were to be made, no one made them better than Roger Staubach. When big trades were to be made, none were any bigger than grabbing Heisman Trophy winner Tony Dorsett. When tall players were playing, none were taller than Too Tall Jones.

Now, when it is time for a dynasty to slip, none appears to be slipping so spectacularly as the Dallas Cowboys. It is almost as if the Cowboys are trying to duplicate the circuitous, curious, soap-opera path to the Super Bowl taken last season by the Disneyland Rams.

Jolted last year by the retirement of Too Tall Jones, an injury to Charlie Waters, and the exit of Thomas Henderson, the Cowboys know they haven't overcome anything until they must play without Staubach. If you think Tom Landry's play calling was the secret to success, wait until Staubach isn't around to execute those plays.

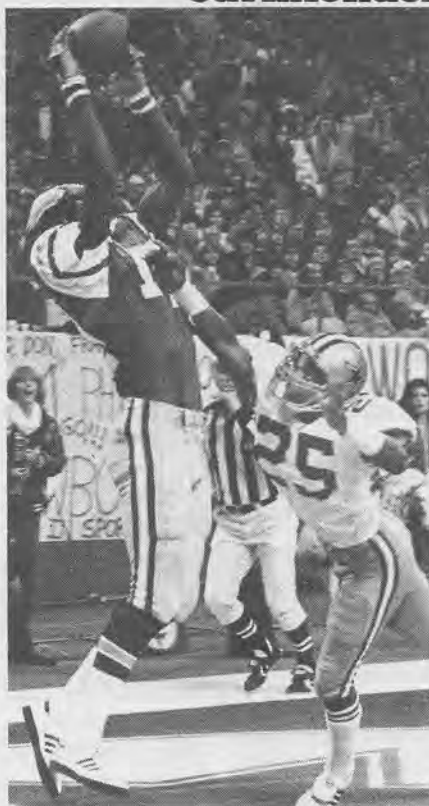
During his career, Staubach brought the Cowboys from a tie or deficit to victory 16 times in the final two minutes or in overtime. That is an astonishing number and the Cowboys challenge anyone to prove it isn't a world record. Four of those times occurred during the last regular season.

"He held them together by himself," said Washington coach Jack Pardee, one of Staubach's victims. "I really believe we had a better club last year than Dallas." Subtract those four last-minute victories last year and Dallas is 7-9.

As the Minnesota Vikings found out after Tarkenton retired, the Cowboys are likely to discover that all-time great quarterbacks cannot be plugged into and out of a lineup by great coaches, general managers, talent scouts, or any amount of wishful thinking.

To further complicate Dallas's outlook, there is the uncertainty of John Dutton, acquired last year for a first and second-round draft choice.

Carmichael



pa Bay, and Chicago are making moves. Ironically, the Rams were in the process of change, too, when interrupted last year by a Super Bowl trip. They won only nine games, one more than improving New Orleans.

Parity is definitely rearing its head in the NFC. Fans in Texas will call it mediocrity, and insist it is a temporary condition. It will last only until their Cowboys can extricate themselves from the common folk. But fans in places like Tampa and Philadelphia and even St. Louis and New York are beginning to feel a little better than average. Hey, they say, we're good enough to win 9 of our 16 games. And that might be good enough to get us into the Super Bowl.

Parity may not guarantee that every team will be good, but it sure makes it difficult to pick out the bad ones. More than any other signal, the rise of Tampa Bay last year proved that anything can happen. Critics pointed to the

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-NFC TEAM 1980

OFFENSE

Quarterback	J. Theismann—Wash.
Running Back	W. Payton—Chicago
Running Back	O. Anderson—St. Louis
Wide Receiver	W. Chandler—New Orleans
Wide Receiver	H. Carmichael—Phil.
Tight End	J. Giles—Tampa Bay
Tackle	S. Walters—Philadelphia
Tackle	D. Dierdorf—St. Louis
Guard	D. Harrah—Los Angeles
Guard	H. Scott—Dallas
Center	R. Saul—Los Angeles
Place-kicker	M. Moseley—Washington

DEFENSE

End	J. Youngblood—L.A.
End	L. R. Selmon—Tampa Bay
Tackle	R. White—Dallas
Tackle	L. Brooks—Los Angeles
OLB	D. Lewis—Tampa Bay
MLB	H. Carson—New York
OLB	B. Brudzinski—L.A.
Cornerback	L. Parrish—Washington
Cornerback	P. Thomas—Los Angeles
Safety	N. Cromwell—Los Angeles
Safety	C. Waters—Dallas
Punter	D. Jennings—New York



Giles

Why the Pros Win and How You Can Win

Many sports services are just simply not equipped to compete on an equal basis with the pro analysts, and therefore, often make unrealistic claims of 75% and even 80% wins against the Las Vegas Line.

Looking over the last two decades we have seen a tremendous transformation in the strategies of Pro Football both on and off the field. To a large extent, this transformation can be directly attributed to the technological advances in the video and computer industries. Using the latest video equipment, it is not uncommon to see your favorite organization spending the entire off-season reviewing endless film footage and gathering vast amounts of data for subsequent computer analysis. Before the next season begins, the Pro Football organizations will have generated tons of statistical reports covering nearly every aspect of America's most favorite sport on and off the field. Why? Because Pro Football is big business!

Before the end of this season, millions of fans will pour into the stadiums and countless other millions will cheer their favorite teams at home on TV. ABC, CBS, and NBC will literally spend hundreds of millions of dollars covering all the play by play action from every angle. Last year, commercials during the Monday night game cost its advertisers an average of \$5000 per second. This year, that average is expected to run as high as 8000 to \$9000 per second.

In light of this billion dollar industry, we can easily understand why most professional agencies take advantage of the latest technological advances. Failure to do so, in many cases, would simply allow competition to take a greater share of the profits that would not normally be theirs otherwise. For instance, consider the betting public. Most bets are made in reference to the Las Vegas Line, but yet this line is adjusted daily to balance the dollars to be won against the dollars to be lost. Las Vegas does not really care who wins or who loses because their profits are made on the 10% bet charge when the bet is placed. In other words, the winners are living off the losers.

Fortunately, the advances in computer technology over the past few years has given many analysts that additional leverage necessary to move ahead into the winning category, while others are being left behind. Consequently, many sports services are just simply not equipped to compete on an equal basis with the pro analysts, and therefore often make unrealistic claims of 75% and even 80% wins against the Las Vegas Line. Consistent winners are made only through analytical research, not "magical formulas" or "uncanny picks."

There are a few sports services around that have kept abreast with the latest computer technology and do provide reliable information to their users. One such company, COMPUTER SPORTS LINE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, has spent several years in research and has developed one of the most sophisticated computer sports services available. Their TV coverage last year in the Los Angeles area demonstrated to thousands that modern computer techniques do provide consistent and reliable forecasts. Their 68% average last year was slightly higher than the 67.7% the year before. Each week, COMPUTER SPORTS LINE provides the points spread predictions for all Pro games, the over and under score for all games, the best pick of the week, the Las Vegas Line, and an up to date summary of the team standings.

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Cowboy fans are anxious to find out whether he was worth it. And if linebackers and defensive backs aren't retiring or getting injured or getting kicked off the team, they seem to have a penchant for getting themselves into trouble. Linebacker Mike Hegman was caught cashing bad checks and cornerback Dennis Thurman was arrested while waiting for a friend to cash a check. It seems Thurman "got a little bored," he said, and slipped a robbery note to a teller. Five hours later he managed to convince police he was kidding.

Tom Landry wishes this whole thing were just a practical joke. Unfortunately, Cliff Harris says he would rather drill for oil, and Staubach got tired of being drilled.

Suddenly, the fabled Cowboy depth is on the surface and personnel genius Gil Brandt is on the spot. "You look at their drafts the last few years, especially the top picks, and they haven't done so hot," says a rival NFC personnel man. A look at the record shows that their top six draft choices of the past two years, No. 1's Larry Bethea and Robert Shaw, No. 2's Todd Christensen and Aaron Mitchell, and No. 3's David Hudgens and Doug Cosbie have made only marginal contributions.

Say goodbye to the Cowboys, but maybe not for so long. Similar epitaphs were being prepared for the Los Angeles Rams last season in the wake of injuries to John Cappelletti, Ron Jessie, Willie Miller, Pat Thomas, Rod Perry, Billy Waddy, Cody Jones, and a dozen others who missed at least a game. A loudmouth linebacker, Isaiah Robertson, was traded away. The owner had died and the owner's wife fired the stepson. The All-Pro tackle, Doug France, walked out of camp charging racial discrimination.

Later, the quarterback broke a finger and the coach couldn't turn around without hearing from someone that he was about to be fired.

"This is Fernwood Tonight," said defensive end Fred Dryer.

Check it out: in the East, Philadelphia has been a wild-card play-off team for two years and expects to last longer this time. Washington felt unfairly left out last year and expects to pass both the Eagles and Cowboys this year. Without Staubach around, the Redskins boast the No. 1 returning passer in football—Joe Theismann. His ranking last year was second to Staubach and ahead of San Diego's Dan Fouts.

Both teams will have to tackle St. Louis's O.J. Anderson, and everybody runs the risk of assuming Phil Simms and his young New York Giants are still a year or so away.

In the Central, Tampa Bay's taste of honey will provide confidence and fond memories for the young Bucs, who can easily recall the turning point in their history: beating the Rams in the fourth week of the season. They lost to L.A. in the NFC title game, but watched the Super Bowl knowing that the Rams had failed to score a touchdown against the Bucs' defense in two games.

Challenging the Bucs will be the Chicago Bears, who appear ready for the big move with Walter Payton in his prime and more stability at quarterback from Mike Phipps than that position has seen in Chicago in years. The Bears' defense also finished second to Tampa Bay in the NFC.

In the West, Los Angeles is favored. But if New Orleans ever can learn to stop people as well as Archie Manning makes the offense go, the Rams will be in a run for it. Atlanta fell back after a play-off spot two years ago, but Steve

Bartkowski is about as old as Terry Bradshaw was when Bradshaw started to click.

What are the reasons for this upheaval in the NFC? It is more than the position of the moon. Sure, the law of averages catches up with everyone. But position in the draft is more important than coincidence. More and more, teams are discovering the real secret to success never was a secret: keep those draft choices. Even if a team blows a draft choice, at least the choice was its own, not the Rams' or Cowboys'.

Consider the years 1974-75-76. During those drafts, the Rams and Cowboys each stockpiled a total of 14 draft choices in the top three rounds. Meanwhile, the Green Bay Packers had five choices, the Philadelphia Eagles one, and the Washington Redskins none.

Much of that stockpiling was accomplished by the trading of quarterbacks. The Rams cashed in by sending away Roman Gabriel and later John Hadl. The Cowboys traded Craig Morton and came up with Randy White.

By 1979, however, the Eagles had four draft choices in the top three rounds. So did the Chicago Bears, the Atlanta Falcons, and the St. Louis Cardinals. The Cowboys had three. It might seem a trivial difference at the moment, but wait a year or two.

In the 1980 draft, the Rams had to wait until late in the first round and traded picks to improve their position. The Cowboys had no choices in the first two rounds. Meanwhile, the Washington Redskins had their first No. 1 draft choice since 1968.

Change is inevitable. Roger Staubach may have retired, but the NFC is in for more scrambling than ever.

NFC

Anderson

Payton

When they lost to New Orleans in their final game in the L.A. Coliseum, fans booed them good riddance, figuring they wouldn't see them around town again until the 1980 opener in Anaheim. Never thought about Pasadena and Super Bowl XIV.

The antics of the Cowboys and Rams have completely overshadowed the Minnesota Vikings and Bud Grant, who faded quietly last year after ruling the Central Division for 10 of the previous 11 years.

Grant doesn't mind the oversight, because by the time people notice the absence, he is apt to be back on top. Already, Viking quarterback Tommy Kramer is more experienced than either Dallas's Danny White or Los Angeles's Vince Ferragamo. If second-year running back Ted Brown can shake his injury, another class halfback will become an instant factor in a conference full of tough runners.

What is happening underneath the NFC pile is as intriguing as the changes on top, however. The only way the NFC can become competitive again at Super Bowl time is to develop competition from within.



NFC

STREET & SMITH'S TEAM OF THE DECADE

OFFENSE

Quarterback	R. Staubach—Dallas
Running Back	W. Payton—Chicago
Running Back	C. Foreman—Minn.
Wide Receiver	H. Carmichael—Phil.
Wide Receiver	D. Pearson—Dallas
Tight End	C. Sanders—Detroit
Tackle	R. Wright—Dallas
Tackle	D. Dierdorf—St. Louis
Guard	T. Mack—Los Angeles
Guard	E. White—Minnesota
Center	F. Blue—San Francisco
Place-kicker	J. Bakken—St. Louis

DEFENSE

End	J. Youngblood—L.A.
End	C. Humphrey—Atlanta
Tackle	A. Page—Minnesota
Tackle	B. Lilly—Dallas
MLB	B. Bergey—Phil.
OLB	C. Hanburger—Wash.
OLB	I. Robertson—L.A.
Cornerback	R. Wehrli—St. Louis
Cornerback	M. Renfro—Dallas
Strong Safety	K. Houston—Washington
Free Safety	C. Harris—Dallas
Punter	J. James—Atlanta

Roger Staubach and the Dallas Cowboys begin and end the story of the NFC in the 1970's. No other story comes close. The Minnesota Vikings played in four Super Bowls, but lost them all. Dallas played in five and Staubach won two. Staubach stood above the crowd from his spectacular debut in 1971 until 1979, when he retired as the No. 1 passer of all-time.

These were not glory years for the NFC. The decade opened with the NFC Chicago Bears losing a coin toss with the AFC Pittsburgh Steelers for the No. 1 draft choice of 1970. The Steelers took Terry Bradshaw, who had a lot to do with subsequent NFC losses.

There were a few moments of pride for the NFC. In 1970, New Orleans's Tom Dempsey kicked a field goal 63 yards. In 1977, Chicago's Walter Payton ran for 275 yards in a game against Minnesota, breaking O.J. Simpson's single-game record.

One of the more memorable NFC games was a fiasco between the New York Giants and Philadelphia Eagles in 1978. The Giants, unaccustomed as they were to leading, had only to fall on the ball in the final seconds to preserve victory. Instead, coaches sent in a play to quarterback Joe Pisarcik. He was supposed to hand off to fullback Larry Csonka. Over the objections of his teammates, Pisarcik nervously tried to follow orders, fumbled the ball, and watched helplessly as the Eagles' Herman Edwards picked it up and ran 26 yards for the winning touchdown.

Unfortunately, that game was more typical of NFC frustration in the 1970's than the sight of Staubach rallying the Cowboys from behind. Before Staubach was through, he had brought his team from a tie or a deficit in the

final two minutes to victory 16 times, an astonishing statistic believed to be a record.

The three they will remember longest in Dallas are:

(1) December 23, 1972. Cowboys 30, San Francisco 28. After leading the Cowboys to their first Super Bowl victory the season before, Staubach had suffered a separated shoulder in the 1972 pre-season. Craig Morton had quarterbacked the Cowboys to the play-offs, but was trailing the 49ers in the opening post-season game 28-13 in the third quarter. Enter Staubach.

Roger was sacked four times and lost a fumble. He trailed 28-16 with 2:02 left. Taking over at his 45, he completed four passes, the last a 20-yard touchdown to Billy Parks to make it 28-23 with 1:30 left.

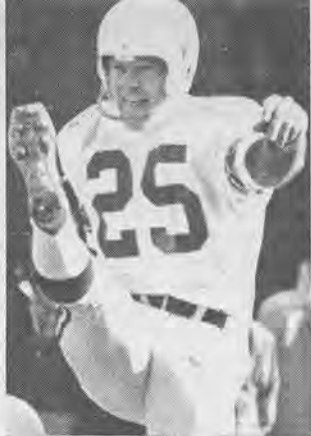
Dallas recovered an onside kick at the 50. Staubach ran up the middle for 21 yards, hit Parks for 19 yards to the ten, then drilled a touchdown to Ron Sellers with 52 seconds left.

(2) December 28, 1975. Cowboys 17, Minnesota 14. Another play-off miracle. Trailing 14-10, Staubach faced fourth down and 16 yards to go from his own 25 with 44 seconds to play. He passed to Drew Pearson at the 50 for new life. After one play of rest, Pearson would up on a fly pattern. Hail Mary. He out-fought Nate Wright for the underthrown ball, caught it on his hip, and trotted into the end zone with 24 seconds left.

(3) December 17, 1979. Cowboys 35, Washington 34. Staubach's final regular-season game was one for the ages. Not once, but twice he brought the Cowboys from behind. Once, he was down 17-0, then 34-21 after John Riggins ran 66 yards for a touchdown with 3:39 left. To build the drama, the Cowboys failed to make a first down on the ensuing possession.

But the Redskins fumbled on their possession and Staubach took over at his 41 and completed three passes, the last to Ron Springs for a 26-yard touchdown with 2:20 to go.

Humphrey



Bakken



Blue



Lilly

Washington had to punt and Staubach had the ball again at his 25. Staubach threw 20 yards to Tony Hill, 22 and 25 to Preston Pearson. From the eight, he anticipated a blitz and lofted a touchdown to Hill with 39 seconds to play.

Three other NFC players of the decade deserve mention.

Alan Page revolutionized defensive tackle play with his speed and quickness and became the only defensive lineman ever to win the league's Most Valuable Player award.

Ken Houston began the decade in the AFC, but played the final eight years with Washington as one of the greatest strong safeties in history.

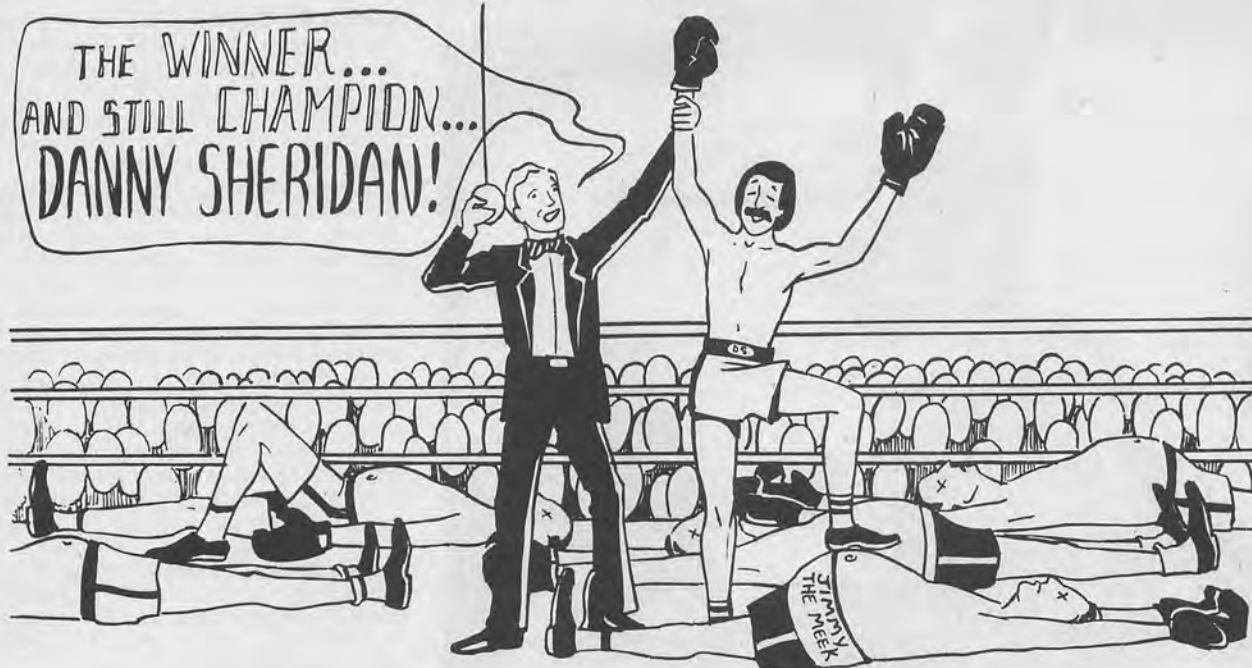
Jack Youngblood, a great defensive end on two legs, became a legend by leading the Los Angeles Rams into the first Super Bowl of the 1980's while playing with a broken leg.

Nothing rivals Staubach and his Cowboys. But things have a way of changing fast. Tampa Bay, born in 1976, became a two-word joke by losing 26 games in a row. By 1979, Tampa Bay had won a division title.



Staubach

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AND STILL CHAMPION...
DANNY SHERIDAN!



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NFCwest

LOS ANGELES RAMS No more jokes. The Rams got the last laugh. No sooner did they decide to rid themselves of Los Angeles than they made it to the Super bowl. So they lost. The way they played the game was the thing. Heck, the thing was they were in the game. For once, the Rams were in the play-offs to stay.

Maybe it was because the Super Bowl came to their neighborhood and they decided to stick around. Maybe it was the spur of Vince Ferragamo or Wendell Tyler. Maybe it was the inspiration of Jack Youngblood playing with a broken leg or divine guidance directed by late owner Carroll Rosenbloom. Maybe it was the only fitting end to a script more outlandish than a Harold Robbins novel or a Hollywood soap opera. The Rams could have played on Tuesday afternoons and outdrawn *As the World Turns*.

Maybe it was Ray Malavasi. Ever think of that? You can call him Ray or you can call him lucky, but you better call him a successful coach. Call him Mr. Malavasi. He did what Chuck Knox and George Allen couldn't do. Never mind what you read or heard about all that incredible Ram talent of the past and how this was an inferior product by Ram standards and it was a fluke. Who cares? Malavasi got them to the Super Bowl.

But what has he done for Anaheim lately? You'll make it again, won't you Ray? No sweat this time, huh? The Cowboys are dead. So are the Vikings. No competition, right? Ferragamo is young. So is Tyler.

The lines are big—on offense, defense, and at the box office. And the schedule. Did you see the schedule, Ray? A cakewalk. By far the easiest in football. Who are you going to draft with the 28th pick in 1981?

Ahem. Such is the plight of winners. Winning once makes winning twice look, oh, so easy. Until you remember how difficult it was the first time. Until you recall the Rams won nine games



1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Corral, 75 points on 13 field goals and 36 PAT's... tie 8th
RUSHING—Tyler, 218 carries for 1109 yards, 5.1 avg., 9 TD's... 7th
PASSING—Haden, 163 of 290 attempts for 1854 yards, 11 TD's... 8th
RECEIVING—Dennard, 43 receptions for 766 yards, 17.8 avg., 4 TD's... 21st
INTERCEPTIONS—Cromwell, 5 for 109 yards, 21.8 avg... 9th
PUNTING—Clark, 93 punts, 40.1 avg., longest 60 yards... 5th
PUNT RETURNS—Brown, 56 for 332 yards, 5.9 avg... 11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Hill, 40 for 803 yards, 20.1 avg... 13th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 11 NEW ENGLAND (N)
16 DALLAS (N)
23 At Denver (N)
30 SAN DIEGO (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

September 7 DETROIT

11 At Tampa Bay (N) 6-21

21 GREEN BAY 27-24

28 At NY Giants 14-20

October 5 SAN FRANCISCO

12 At St. Louis 21-0

19 At San Francisco 26-20

26 At Atlanta 34-13

November 2 NEW ORLEANS

9 MIAMI 14-29

16 At New England 35-17

24 At New Orleans (N) 35-17

30 NY JETS 20-14

December 7 At Buffalo

15 DALLAS (N) 6-30

21 ATLANTA 20-14

Los Angeles Rams' 1980 Super heroes:
quarterback Vince Ferragamo (top)
and running back Wendell Tyler

and lost seven during the regular season, one measly game between the Super Bowl and sitting home in disgrace watching the New Orleans Saints cash the play-off money.

The Rams should win again. They should win the NFC West for the eighth year in a row. They will be favored to get to the Super Bowl again. But it won't be easy, despite a regular schedule that makes even fifth-place teams drool. The Rams play four winning teams, 12 losers.

Maybe the Super Bowl experience and the confidence gained in it is all the Rams need to fulfill the so-called potential that has been dormant for a decade. But let's not get carried away.

The Rams' receivers are aging and injured. Their running back depth is dangerously thin. Their quarterbacking is not as solid as Ferragamo made it look last January. Remember, this is the era of parity. The Rams will be virtually the same club that lost to Tampa Bay, New Orleans, the New York Giants, and the Chicago Bears last season. It is the same team that squeezed by San Francisco twice: 27-24 and 26-20. But with the expected decline of Dallas and the absence of a proven stand-in, the Rams are the class of the NFC by default.

door of the Super Bowl with an all-star cast, the Rams sneaked in the back door with a makeshift lineup and a good deal of guts. The return of these players to health this year should give Malavasi more talent than he knows what to do with. And therein lies a potential problem: morale.

Already the coach has raised the eyebrows of Vince Ferragamo fans by announcing that Haden will be his No. 1 quarterback until someone beats him out.

Some observers suggest Ferragamo already demonstrated his superiority by his post-season play and that should be enough to win the job regardless of Haden's health. But Malavasi remains steadfast: "I am sticking with my stated policy that a player who started the previous season should not lose his job because of an injury. We will continue to list Pat Haden as the No. 1 quarterback until someone beats him out. Pat was having his best game of the year when he got hurt. Nevertheless, Vince's progress late in the season indicates there will be some very interesting competition for the starting job. He has a strong arm and he showed tremendous confidence and poise in the Super Bowl."



Jim and Jack Youngblood, Mike Fanning, and Larry Brooks halt Rocky Bleier.

By the end of the season they may also be the class of the NFC by acclaim. For one thing, they got richer in the draft, as the rich often do. They entered with more picks than any other team and wheeled and dealt their way to at least one blue-chipper, Texas safety Johnnie Johnson. For another, the law of averages practically guarantees they will not be hit by the number of injuries that crippled them last year.

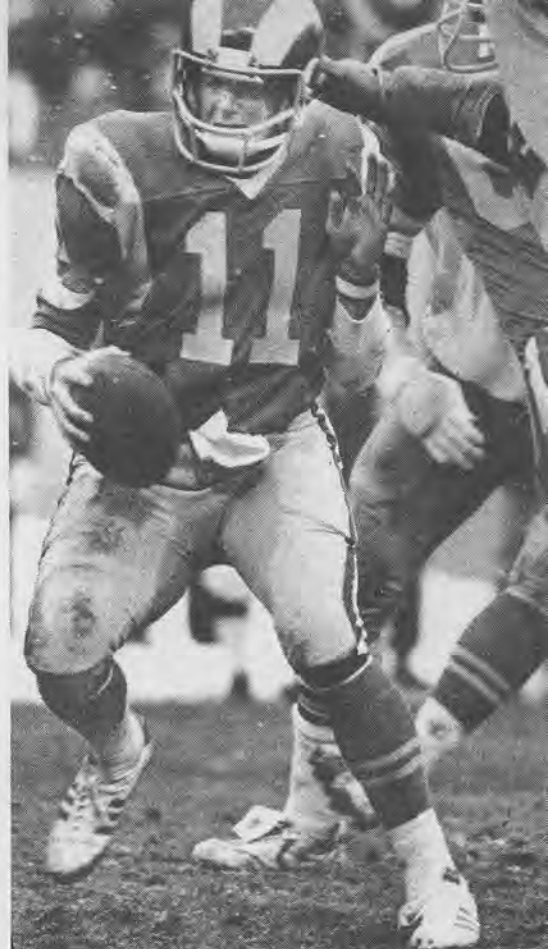
The list of Rams who either played injured or missed all or some of the season because of injury last year reads like a Pro Bowl roster: defensive end Jack Youngblood, defensive tackles Larry Brooks and Cody Jones, cornerbacks Rod Perry and Pat Thomas, running backs John Cappelletti and Elvis Peacock, quarterback Pat Haden, tackle Doug France, wide receivers Willie Miller and Ron Jessie, guards John Williams and Doug Smith, and linebacker Carl Ekern.

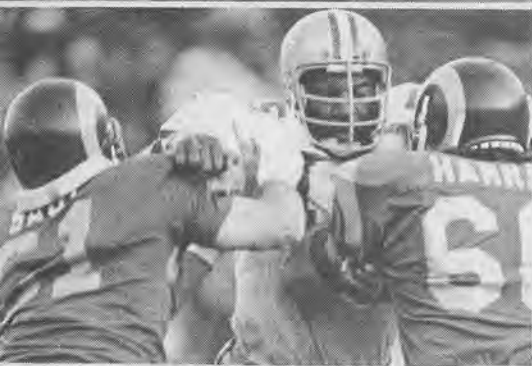
After all those years of knocking on the front

Interesting to say the least, Ferragamo said *before* the Super Bowl that he has to be No. 1 or nothing in 1980. Except for the superb Super Bowl effort, Ferragamo's five-game regular season relief role was not spectacular. The Rams won four of the games, but free-agent veteran Bob Lee bailed out two of them with game-winning touchdown passes. Ferragamo finished with a pass ranking of 48.8, considerably lower than the 68.2 Haden carried when he broke the little finger on his throwing hand during a 24-0 victory over Seattle.

It will be up to Malavasi to ensure that the competition does not divide his club into Ferragamo and Haden factions. This is not an easy task, but it is what coaches get paid to do. Jeff Rutledge, who started one game as a rookie and almost beat Chicago, will start his second year a backup.

Quarterback Pat Haden (top) remains No. 1 in L.A.; safety Nolan Cromwell is an outstanding athlete.





Name one most valuable player on the Rams and it would have to be halfback Wendell Tyler. It was Tyler who provided the big plays for an offense that lost its wide receivers, quarterback, and other running backs. Tyler led NFL runners in average gain with 5.1 yards a carry. This included seven runs of more than 30 yards. Tyler gained 1,109 yards despite failing to crack the starting lineup until the fifth game.

"He is a great back," said Malavasi, who puts so much faith in the 5-10, 195-pounder that he traded former starters John Cappelletti and Lawrence McCutcheon in the off-season. If Tyler gets any help, it will have to come from Elvis Peacock, the 1978 No. 1 draft choice who has been injured for two years. This year's third-round choice, San Jose's Jewell Thomas, is an intriguing prospect who played behind Tyler at UCLA for a year before transferring. At 5-10, 223, and with good speed, Thomas has possibilities at either halfback or fullback.

The fullback spot is as solid as any position on the Rams with veteran Cullen Bryant providing good blocking and dependable running. In 177 carries, he fumbled only once last year. He gained 619 yards. Eddie Hill and Jim Jodot provide relief, and draft choices Mike Guman of Penn State and Gerry Ellis of Missouri will compete for roster spots.

Miller and Jessie will get their wide receiver spots back, but with both men 32 years old, the question is how long they can hold them. Billy Waddy will be tough to keep out of the lineup, and Preston Dennard, Ron Smith, and Drew Hill got valuable experience last year. Dennard led all receivers with 43 catches. Jeff Moore, a 1979 draftee who sat out injured, is also available.

Tight end Terry Nelson caught 25 passes and blocks well. He will be helped in passing situations by the addition of Walter White, a deep threat obtained from Kansas City.

Another high draft choice, Penn State's Irv Pankey (No. 2), will keep the Rams' offensive line one of their strongest assets. Kent Hill, a rookie last year, moved to guard when veterans Dennis Harrah and John Williams were injured. One of the fastest linemen in the game, Hill is likely to stay opposite All-Pro Harrah.

Jackie Slater emerged so impressively at right tackle that his coach, Dan Radakovich, predicts all-time greatness for him. Doug France, hampered by injury, has All-Pro tools that he does not always use. Off-season shoulder surgery may help. Center Rich Saul joined Harrah at the Pro Bowl after one of his better years. Pankey, Doug Smith, and veterans Dan Ryczek, Gordon Gravelle, and Bill Bain provide plenty of depth.

Relief from injury will keep the other side of the Rams' line one of football's strongest, too. Youngblood demonstrated his all-time greatness even before he played in the play-offs with a broken leg. He led the team in sacks with 16 on a line that led the NFC with 52. This is particularly unusual from the left side, where pass rushers must contend with the tight end, as well as the tackle, most of the time. But Youngblood is an unusual player.

Best in the NFC West (Rams from top to bottom): No. 1 draft choice Johnnie Johnson, offensive linemen Rich Saul and Dennis Harrah, defensive end Fred Dryer, offensive tackle Doug France, and wide receiver Willie Miller

His counterpart, Fred Dryer, had nine sacks from the other end. His Super Bowl trip no doubt rejuvenated his 34-year-old body. Brooks and Jones will start at tackle, but Mike Fanning played well for Jones all last year and young Reggie Doss and 6-9 Jerry Wilkinson show promise. Third-round draft choice Phil Murphy of South Carolina State shows 280 pounds of hope.

Linebacking is as solid on the Rams as anywhere else in football. Bob Brudzinski, 1977 No. 1 draft choice, led the club in tackles with 84 from his right side spot. Jack Youngblood, 1971 No. 1 choice, followed with 83. Left side linebacker Jim Youngblood, 1973 No. 2 choice, tied for the club lead in interceptions with five

RAMS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
52	Andrews, G.	LB	6-3	223	25	2	Nebraska
62	Bain, B.	G	6-4	277	28	6	USC
90	Brooks, L.	DT	6-3	253	30	9	Va. St.
25	Brown, E.	S-KR	5-11	190	28	6	Tennessee
59	Brudzinski, B.	LB	6-4	229	25	4	Ohio St.
32	Bryant, C.	RB	6-1	236	29	8	Colorado
13	Clark, K.	P	6-2	196	32	2	St. Mary's
3	Corral, F.	K	6-2	228	25	3	UCLA
21	Cromwell, N.	S	6-1	198	25	4	Kansas
88	Dennard, P.	WR	6-1	183	25	3	New Mexico
71	Doss, R.	DE	6-4	267	24	3	Hampton Inst.
89	Dryer, F.	DE	6-6	231	34	12	San Diego St.
55	Ekern, C.	LB	6-3	223	26	4	San Jose St.
28	Ellis, K.	CB	5-11	180	33	11	Southern
42	Elmendorf, D.	S	6-1	196	31	10	Texas A&M
79	Fanning, M.	DT	6-6	252	27	6	Notre Dame
15	Ferragamo, V.	QB	6-3	212	26	4	Nebraska
77	France, D.	T	6-5	270	27	6	Ohio State
73	Gravelle, G.	T	6-5	257	31	9	Brig. Young
11	Haden, P.	QB	5-11	185	27	5	USC
60	Harrah, D.	G	6-5	255	27	6	Miami
51	Harris, J.	LB	6-1	224	28	5	Ga. Tech.
87	Hill, D.	WR-KR	5-9	170	24	2	Ga. Tech.
24	Hill, E.	RB-KR	6-2	202	23	2	Memphis St.
72	Hill, K.	G	6-5	260	23	2	Ga. Tech.
81	Jessie, R.	WR	6-0	181	32	10	Kansas
43	Jodot, J.	RB	5-11	213	26	4	Carthage
76	Jones, C.	DT	6-5	244	29	6	San Jose St.
29	Justin, S.	CB	5-10	170	26	2	Long Beach
19	Lee, B.	QB	6-2	190	34	12	Pacific
82	Miller, W.	WR	5-9	172	32	5	Colorado St.
83	Nelson, T.	TE	6-2	240	29	7	Pine Bluff
33	O'Steen, D.	CB	6-1	193	26	3	San Jose St.
34	Peacock, E.	RB	6-1	208	24	2	Oklahoma
49	Perry, R.	CB	5-9	182	27	6	Colorado
64	Reynolds, J.	LB	6-1	227	33	11	Tennessee
8	Rutledge, J.	QB	6-2	202	23	2	Alabama
54	Ryczek, D.	C-G	6-3	242	31	8	Virginia
61	Saul, R.	C	6-3	245	32	11	Michigan St.
78	Slater, J.	T	6-4	271	26	5	Jackson St.
56	Smith, D.	C-G	6-3	255	24	3	Bowl. Green
84	Smith, R.	WR	6-0	185	24	3	San Diego St.
37	Sully, I.	S-CB	6-0	193	23	2	Delaware
27	Thomas, P.	CB	5-9	182	26	5	Texas A&M
26	Tyler, W.	RB	5-10	195	25	3	UCLA
80	Waddy, B.	WR	5-11	188	26	4	Colorado
20	Wallace, J.	S-KR	6-3	196	29	7	Arizona
57	Westbrooks, G.	LB	6-3	220	27	6	Colorado
White, W.		TE	6-3	234	29	6	Maryland
70	Wilkinson, J.	DE	6-9	260	24	2	Oregon St.
86	Young, C.	TE	6-4	240	29	8	USC
85	Youngblood, J.	DE	6-4	244	30	10	Florida
53	Youngblood, J.	LB	6-3	231	30	8	Tenn. Tech.

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Johnson, Johnnie	S	6-1	185	24	Texas
2	Pankey, Irv	OT	6-4	269	22	Penn St.
3	Thomas, Jewell	RB	5-10	223	23	S. Jose St.
3	Irvin, Leroy	DB	5-11	180	23	Kansas
3	Murphy, Phil	DT	6-5	280	23	S.C. St.
6	Guman, Mike	RB	6-2	210	22	Penn St.
7	Collins, Kirk	DB	5-11	185	22	Baylor
7	Ellis, Gerry	RB	5-11	215	23	Missouri
8	Pettigrew, Tom	OT	6-4	262	24	E. Illinois
9	Farmer, George	WR	5-10	175	22	Southern
10	Gruber, Bob	OT	6-5	250	22	Pittsburgh
11	Greer, Terry	WR	6-2	194	23	Ala. St.
12	Scanlon, Kevin	QB	5-11	186	23	Arkansas



and played in the Pro Bowl. The backups: George Andrews 1979 No. 1 choice; dependable Carl Ekern, 1976 No. 5 choice; and free agents Joe Harris and Greg Westbrook.

Injuries to 1978 Pro Bowl cornerbacks Perry and Thomas caused the Rams to seek help in this year's draft. They swapped first round choices with Cleveland to land a gem in Johnnie Johnson. The 6-1, 185-pound Johnson can play all four backfield positions and return punts on top of it. Trouble is, he can't play four at once, so Malavasi has another problem.

The guess is that Johnson could replace veteran Dave Elmendorf at strong safety or move to free safety and have incumbent Nolan Cromwell switch to strong. Cromwell is an exceptional athlete who was forced to play cornerback because of injuries last year. He intercepted five passes to tie Youngblood. Elmendorf was the only Ram to play the entire season in the secondary at the same position, but a neck injury affected his play. Second-year man Dwayne O'Steen saw considerable time at cornerback, too, giving Malavasi plenty of bodies from which to choose. Odds are Johnson will land a starting spot, however. To underline the need for depth there, the Rams made Kansas's Leroy Irvin their third-round draft choice.

Johnson and Irvin should spark the Rams' special teams, where returner Eddie Brown had an off year. The Rams finished 24th in punt returns, 17th in kickoff returns.

Punting and place-kicking were not Super Bowl caliber either. Kicker Frank Corral slipped to 25th in the league in accuracy, hitting only seven of 19 kicks over 30 yards. Ken Clark averaged 40 yards a punt coming down from Canada, but had two blocked.

"Neither kicker had an outstanding season, but I think both will be better in 1980," said Malavasi.

Fair enough. The whole team should be better if it stays out of the hospital. And that kind of luck surely is due them.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS A sure sign of parity is the New Orleans Saints. Here is a team that has never had a winning season, yet its players are starting to believe that the Super Bowl is something more than a game played in their stadium. Only in the NFL could a team advance so far by accomplishing so little.

After 12 straight miserable losing seasons, the Saints were 8-8 last season—and missed the road to the Super Bowl by one game. They sat home and watched the Rams, a team they beat 29-14 in the season finale, get all the glory.

Quarterback Archie Manning talks about 1980: "I'm excited. This whole team is excited. We're tired of being home every Christmas and watching the other teams in the play-offs."

Why not? A record of 8-8 is worthy of all praise, the ideal according to the theory that all teams are created equal. Besides, the Saints have paid their dues.

The trouble with parity, however, is that it is difficult to determine who is best and who is worst. So a team like the Saints could just as easily finish fourth as first. Why second? They are not as good as the Rams and their offense is better than Atlanta's and San Francisco's, neither of which has a defense that can stop them.

Saints' QB Archie Manning made his second Pro Bowl appearance in 1980.



Saints' defensive tackle Derland Moore

Of course, it is a good thing the Saints' defense doesn't have to stop Manning's offense, too. Suffice it to say the Saints are happy the rules are favoring offense. The Saints' offense set all kinds of club records last year while finishing fourth in the league overall, first in average gain per pass, second in average gain per play, third in fewest sacks allowed, sixth in rushing and points.

But the defense gave nearly all of it back. The most spectacular fold was on a Monday night encounter with Oakland for all the world to see. The Saints jumped ahead 28-7 only to lose 42-35. While they weren't that bad all year, the fold was indicative of fundamental problems. The Saints' defense was last in the league in stopping the run, a crucial failing. They were next-to-last in allowing first downs, 23rd against the rush, and the 20th against the pass.

Anyone could see the Saints needed help badly at linebacker and cornerback—anywhere on defense, actually. So it was with some shock when they made offensive tackle Stan Brock their No. 1 draft choice. Brock will only improve an offense that is near the top in production. Guided by ten-year veteran Manning, few teams can move the ball as well.

Chuck Muncie (below), Tony Galbreath (right) combined for 1,906 yards rushing and 21 TD's for New Orleans.

They are not flawless, however. Manning was twentieth in the league in percentage of interceptions and the Saints finished fifteenth in third-down efficiency, indicating that the Saints' big-play reputation was inflated. Many of the big plays did not come when big plays were badly needed.

Manning is a class quarterback whose 60 percent completion put him in the Pro Bowl for the second year. He calls the plays and is the fulcrum of Saints' hopes. Bobby Scott, a nine-year man, and Ed Burns back up Manning, but don't see much action.

Manning has the most productive pair of running backs in football in his huddle. Chuck Muncie and Tony Galbreath combined for 1,906 yards rushing, 98 pass receptions, and 21 touchdowns last season. No other duo compared. The 6-3, 235-pound Muncie had his finest year, capped by an MVP performance in the Pro Bowl. On the season, he ran for 1,198 yards, averaging five yards a carry and scoring 11 touchdowns. He caught 40 passes for 308 yards. Coach Dick Nolan thinks the Pro Bowl experience on top of his year will do wonders for Muncie's confidence.

Muncie was joined in the Pro Bowl by wide receiver Wes Chandler, tight end Henry Childs, Manning, and safety Tommy Myers.

"They measured themselves against the best and maybe they said, 'Hey, I'm as good as that guy, or maybe a little better,'" said Nolan. "That notion will help them this season. Look at Muncie. There's a guy who can gain 2,000 yards for you if he decides that Walter Payton doesn't have that much more than he does."

Galbreath, said to have the best hands in football from the backfield, caught 58 passes for 484 yards while rushing for 708 yards and scoring ten touchdowns. Galbreath also throws passes and kicks field goals.

Mike Strachan is a better-than-average reserve. He scored six touchdowns last year. But the Saints must improve in short-yardage situations.

The running backs open up Manning's passing game to Chandler and tight end Childs. In his second season, Chandler began to reach the potential unanimously predicted for him. He caught 65 passes for a 16.4 average. He can devastate defenses, especially now that rules make it so difficult to check receivers. He is

tough to double-team, too, since Ike Harris lines up on the other side, where he caught 25 passes for a 15.8 average. In reserve, former starter Tinker Owens is no slouch and special-teams superstar Rich Mauti provides depth.

Childs is a premier deep threat who averaged 16.6 yards on 51 catches. No tight end in the NFC had better credentials as a pass receiver. The only reserves are youngsters Brooks Williams and Larry Hardy.

"Archie's Bunker" is the name given the Saints' offensive line, an improving unit that will be enhanced by the addition of Brock, a 6-6, 275-pounder from Colorado who was too good to pass up. Few experts second-guessed the selection of Brock over a cornerback or linebacker. He is expected to step right in at right tackle, enabling regular Robert Woods to move to guard, where he will challenge either Conrad Dobler or Emanuel Zanders.

Left tackle J.T. Taylor was outstanding. In successive games against top pass rushers Lee Roy Selmon of Tampa Bay, Bubba Baker of Detroit, and Coy Bacon of Washington, Taylor

1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Yepremian, 75 points on 12 field goals and 39 PAT's ... tie 8th
RUSHING—Muncie, 238 carries for 1198 yards, 5.0 avg., 11 TD's ... 5th
PASSING—Manning, 252 of 420 attempts for 3169 yards, 15 TD's ... 4th
RECEIVING—Chandler, 65 receptions for 1069 yards, 16.4 avg., 6 TD's ... 4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Myers, 7 for 127 yards, 18.1 avg., 1 TD ... 2nd
PUNTING—Partridge, 57 punts, 40.9 avg., longest 61 yards ... 3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Mauti, 27 for 218 yards, 8.1 avg. ... 6th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Mauti, 36 for 801 yards, 22.3 avg. ... 8th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 9 ST. LOUIS (N)
17 At Houston
23 At Detroit (N)
29 MIAMI (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

September 7 SAN FRANCISCO
14 At Chicago
21 BUFFALO
28 At Miami
October 5 ST. LOUIS
12 At Detroit
19 ATLANTA
26 At Washington
November 2 At Los Angeles
9 PHILADELPHIA
16 At Atlanta
24 LOS ANGELES (N)
30 MINNESOTA
December 7 At San Francisco
14 At NY Jets
21 NEW ENGLAND

1979 SCORES

31-20
—
—
—
—
17-7
34-40
14-10
29-14
14-26
37-6
17-35
—
30-21
—
—



did not allow a sack. Nolan calls unsung John Hill one of the top three centers in football. Reserves Dave Lafary, Fred Sturt, and Jim Pietrzak provide experienced depth.

The Saints allowed only 17 sacks last year, tying for second in the NFL. This is impressive progress considering the totals in the three previous years were 51, 46, and 37.

But it is up to the linemen to improve short yardage success and the ability to score inside the 20. The Saints' offense was padded too much by long plays in the middle of the field that went for naught. The short-yardage woes were more pronounced when the Saints' defense was on the field.

"This year our top priority is to strengthen the defense," said Nolan. The improvement will have to come primarily from within, which does not excite many Saints observers who watched the 1979 group play less consistently than the 1978 team. Nolan attributes it to the "Flex" system, now in its third year in New Orleans.

"The same thing happened when I was with the 49ers," said Nolan. "We took a drop in our second season. In the Flex, you're like robots at first. Then you start thinking about it and you're in trouble, which happened to us last year. The whole thing will start coming together."

Although the Saints had 46 sacks last season, sixth-best in the league, there will be changes in personnel. Ends Don Reese and Elois Grooms shared the sack lead with 12 apiece and appear solid, although it is time for Joe Campbell, 1977 No. 1 draft choice, to make a move or be moved. At tackle, starters Derland Moore and Elex Price could be challenged by Barry Bennett, who started 14 games when Price was injured, and Mike Fultz.

The Saints' linebacking corps has question marks at every position. In the middle, second-year man Jim Kovach is ready to challenge Joe Federspiel. On the left, four-year vet Ken Bordelon made 83 tackles and displaced former starter Jim Merlo. On the right, rookie Reggie Mathis will get first chance to replace retired Pat Hughes. Stan Sytsma, a rookie middle linebacker who was on injured reserve,

adds intrigue to the unsettled position, and 1980 draftees Lester Boyd, Chuck Evans, and Kiser Lewis all have the opportunity to make their mark.

The Saints made an effort to upgrade their secondary by making Notre Dame's Dave Waymer their second-round choice. But Waymer projects as a safety rather than a cornerback, where the Saints need the most help. At free safety, Pro Bowler Myers had seven interceptions. Ray Brown, a ten-year vet, played strong safety, but the Saints might like to move cornerback Eric Felton inside. Felton and Clarence Chapman are the starting corners, but injuries early last season allowed rookies David Gray and Ricky Ray to get their baptism by fire. Another rookie, Don Schwartz, saw game action at strong safety and could be a factor. Veteran Ralph McGill backed up Myers. The Saints made Michigan's Mike Jolly their fourth-round draft choice and he also figures in the backfield scramble.

"This area certainly needs improvement," admits Nolan. "I look for the young players to

really challenge the veterans."

The kicking game was a source of pride and frustration for the Saints last year. With veteran Garo Yepremian finishing fourth in the league with 12 of 16 field goals and punter Rick Partridge averaging 40.9 yards and finishing tenth in the league, the Saints were left asking themselves why they spent their 1979 No. 1 draft choice on Russell Erxleben.

Erxleben was injured after one game and the two kicking cast-offs filled in nicely. Even Tony Galbreath stepped in and booted two of three field goals. Erxleben will be back and is still expected to try both punting and place-kicking.

Mauti again proved one of the league's best special-teams stars, leading the club in punt returns, kickoff returns, and special-teams tackles. Even then, Mauti had plenty of help from Jack Holmes, voted special-teams MVP.

The Saints will be aided in their chase of the Rams by former L.A. minority owner Steve Rosenbloom, 35-year-old general manager. Now if only Rosenbloom can play cornerback, the Saints will have it made.

SAINTS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE
63	Bennett, Barry	DT	6-4	257	24	3	Concordia
50	Bordelon, Ken	LB	6-4	226	26	4	LSU
27	Brown, Ray	SS	6-2	202	31	10	W. Texas St.
11	Burns, Ed	QB	6-3	210	26	3	Nebraska
73	Campbell, Joe	DE	6-6	254	25	4	Maryland
89	Chandler, Wes	WR	5-11	186	24	3	Florida
24	Chapman, Clarence	CB	5-10	185	27	5	Michigan
85	Childs, Henry	TE	6-2	220	29	7	Kansas St.
66	Dobler, Conrad	G	6-3	255	30	9	Wyoming
58	Federspiel, Joe	LB	6-2	230	30	9	Kentucky
20	Felton, Eric	CB-S	6-0	200	25	3	Texas Tech.
72	Fultz, Mike	DT	6-5	278	26	4	Nebraska
34	Galbreath, Tony	FB	6-1	230	26	5	Missouri
21	Gray, David	CB	6-0	190	25	3	E.L.A. J.C.
78	Grooms, Elois	DE	6-4	250	27	6	Tenn. Tech.
87	Hardy, Larry	TE	6-3	230	24	3	Jackson St.
82	Harris, Ike	WR	6-3	210	28	6	Iowa St.
51	Harris, Paul	LB	6-2	223	26	3	Alabama
62	Hill, John	C	6-2	246	30	9	Lehigh
45	Holmes, Jack	HB	5-11	210	27	3	Texas So.
52	Kovach, Jim	LB	6-2	225	24	2	Kentucky
64	Lafary, Dave	G-T	6-7	280	25	4	Purdue
8	Manning, Archie	QB	6-3	200	31	10	Mississippi
56	Mathis, Reggie	LB	6-2	220	24	2	Oklahoma
84	Mauti, Rich	WR	6-0	190	26	4	Penn. St.
49	McGill, Ralph	FS	5-11	178	30	9	Tulsa
57	Merlo, Jim	LB	6-1	220	29	7	Stanford
74	Moore, Derland	DT	6-4	253	29	8	Oklahoma
42	Muncie, Chuck	HB	6-3	233	27	5	California
37	Myers, Tom	FS	6-0	180	30	9	Syracuse

83	Owens, Tinker	WR	5-11	170	26	4	Oklahoma
17	Partridge, Rick	P	6-1	175	23	2	Utah
76	Pietrzak, Jim	C	6-5	260	27	6	E. Michigan
75	Price, Elex	DT	6-3	265	30	8	Alcorn St.
22	Ray, Ricky	CB	5-11	180	23	2	Norfolk St.
60	Reese, Don	DE	6-6	250	29	6	Jackson St.
	Riley, S.	T	6-6	258	28	7	USC
48	Schwartz, Don	SS	6-1	191	24	3	Wash. St.
12	Scott, Bobby	QB	6-1	197	31	9	Tennessee
33	Strachan, Mike	HB	6-0	200	27	6	Iowa State
68	Sturt, Fred	G	6-4	255	29	6	Bowl. Green
71	Taylor, J.T.	T	6-4	265	24	3	Missouri
88	Williams, Brooks	TE	6-4	226	26	3	N. Carolina
30	Wilson, Wayne	FB	6-3	208	23	2	Shepherd
65	Woods, Robert	T	6-4	259	30	8	Tenn. St.
1	Yepremian, Garo	K	5-8	175	36	13	No College
70	Young, James	DE	6-2	260	30	4	Texas So.
79	Zanders, Emanuel	G	6-1	248	29	7	Jackson St.

DRAFTED

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Brock, Stan	OT	6-6	275	22	Colorado
2	Waymer, Dave	DB	6-1	188	23	Notre Dame
4	Jolly, Mike	DB	6-3	185	21	Michigan
6	Boyd, Lester	LB	6-2	225	22	Kentucky
7	Morucci, Mike	RB	6-1	210	21	Bloomburg
8	Evans, Chuck	LB	6-2	234	22	Stanford
9	Mordica, Frank	RB	6-0	196	22	Vanderbilt
10	Webb, Tanya	DE	6-6	255	23	Mich. St.
11	Woodard, George	RB	6-0	274	22	Texas A&M
12	Lewis, Kiser	LB	6-6	220	23	Fla. A&M

The Saints' All-Pro safety Tom Myers (right) will get help in the secondary from Notre Dame star Dave Waymer (below).



ATLANTA FALCONS Like the New Orleans Saints, the Atlanta Falcons fell prey to the lure of new rules. The Falcons needed help on defense to win in 1980. Instead, they drafted a tight end No. 1. He is Nebraska's Junior Miller, who is expected to open up the Falcon passing game so much that the defensive shortcomings will be obscured.

This is the hope of the Falcon brass, at least. It may be sounder strategy than relying on the miracle finishes that put the Falcons into the play-offs in 1978. Even coach Leeman Bennett worried that his club had "arrived" too early, that it really didn't belong among the NFL elite yet.

With a converted bartender kicking last-minute field goals, the Falcons were a mirage in 1978. The same ex-barkeep, Tim Mazzetti, hit only 13 of 25 kicks in 1979 and the Falcons went from a 9-7 wild card play-off entry to a 6-10 also-ran.

Mazzetti was not the sole blame, of course. That he played such a vital role in 1978 was only indicative of the fundamental shortcomings of the franchise. Last year, when the once confusing "Grits Blitz" defense was solved by every offensive coach in football, the magic wore thin in a hurry.

"I think the way we won that first game with New Orleans might have had something to do with it," Bennett said. "We won it on a miracle play (an intercepted pass after a muffed snap to the punter) and we might have figured that the miracles were going to happen for us again."

The Falcons then won their second game on the road, beating play-off rival Philadelphia 14-10. If overconfidence wasn't already a factor, it was by now. "Then we missed opportunities to win a couple of games (Denver and Detroit) in the final seconds, and we suddenly realized that we might not win every close game. After that, we may have begun to press and often we beat ourselves by committing too many errors."

Bennett sounds like a very astute psychologist. He has an unusual grasp of the problems that often get too close for a coach to see.

The Falcons are still building. When they set an NFL record in 1977 for fewest points yielded (129), they were doing it mainly by mirrors. They lived by the blitz and rival coaches vowed they would soon die by the blitz.

In 1979, the Falcons finished 25th in the league in defense, 13th against the run, 26th against the pass. They were 26th in average gain, 27th in interceptions, 25th in sacks. They got burned. Other teams merely held people in to block the blitzes, allowing wide receivers to run unmolested through a secondary that was below average to begin with. The result: touchdown. The Falcons went from first in fewest points allowed in 1977 to 26th in 1979.

Unfortunately, Junior Miller cannot play linebacker. But he is supposed to help the offense keep the ball so that the Falcon defense doesn't have to play much at all. The retirement of veteran tight end Jim Mitchell left a gaping hole that Atlanta management could not ignore when Miller's name appeared on the seventh pick of the draft.

"We feel that he is the best pure tight end to come along since Russ Francis and Riley Odoms," said Bennett. "He's got the ability—speed to be a deep threat, great hands, size, and quickness. Seven of Miller's 21 catches at Nebraska last season went for touchdowns."

"Not only can he catch the football, he can open things up for our wide receivers," said Bennett.

Miller's addition puts even more pressure on quarterback Steve Bartkowski to produce in this, his sixth year. Bartkowski was hot and cold last season, finishing ninth in the NFC pass ratings. Bart threw more passes (379) for more completions (203) for more yards (2,502) and more touchdowns (17) than he ever had in Atlanta. But he also threw more interceptions (20) and the Falcons finished 23rd in the league in average gain per pass play. June Jones remains Bartkowski's understudy.

Wide receiver Wallace Francis proved one of the league's most prolific pass catchers. Only Minnesota's Ahmad Rashad caught more than Francis's 74 passes in the NFC. Francis led the club with eight touchdowns. Alfred Jenkins caught a pass in every game at the other wide receiver spot and enters the 1980 season with a streak of catching a pass in 57 games. Young Alfred Jackson and Dennis Pearson give the Falcons adequate depth at wide receiver.

Everyone in football will watch the second year of running back William Andrews, perhaps the biggest surprise of the 1979 draft. The Auburn product ran second only to St. Louis's Otis Anderson among rookies last season in the year of the runner. His 1,023 yards made him only the twelfth rookie ever to break the magic number. Andrews has enough young help to make the Falcon running picture bright. Four other backs gained more than 193 yards apiece and each averaged at least 4.3 yards a carry. Two enter their second year, Lynn Cain and James Mayberry, and two are veterans, Bubba Bean and Haskel Stanback.

Of Cain, Bennett said, "He showed more progress over the year than any other rookie."

Bartkowski's line is young and huge and gifted and inconsistent. Bart cannot help himself much when it comes time to run for his life, so his line must get better. Last year, only three clubs gave up more sacks. Bartkowski went down 39 times.

The talent is there, however. Tackles Warren Bryant and Mike Kenn will start their fourth and



Wallace Francis and coach Leeman Bennett

third years, respectively, with fifth-year man Phil McKinnely in reserve. Guards Dave Scott and R.C. Thielemann enter their fifth and fourth years, with second-year man Pat Howell in hot pursuit. Center Jeff Van Note is starting his twelfth year, but remains one of the two or three best in the NFC. Paul Ryzcek is the backup.

In case the Falcons ever have to punt, they have one of the league's best in John James, despite an off year in 1979.

Bennett's main worry is whether his defenders can get the ball back. "Our average per attempt in passing was up over last year and this is indicative of our overall drop on defense," said Bennett. "To improve defensively, we will need to get a stronger pass rush to go along with improved coverage from our linebackers and defensive backs."

That just about covers everything. To illustrate the problem, the Falcons drafted nine linebackers and defensive backs, more than any other team in football.

On the line, Bennett hopes injury woes have ended for end Jeff Merrow (toe) and tackles Wilson Faumuina and Edgar Fields (knees). He

1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Mazzetti, 70 points on 13 field goals and 31 PAT's 11th
RUSHING—Andrews, 239 carries for 1023 yards, 4.3 avg., 3 TD's, 9th
PASSING—Bartkowski, 204 of 380 attempts for 2505 yards, 17 TD's, 9th
RECEIVING—Francis, 74 receptions for 1013 yards, 13.7 avg., 8 TD's, 2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Lawrence, 6 for 120 yards, 20.0 avg., 3rd
PUNTING—James, 83 punts, 39.7 avg., longest 62 yards, 7th
PUNT RETURNS—Pearson, 12 for 115 yards, 9.6 avg., 19th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Pearson, 30 for 570 yards, 19.0 avg., 15th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 7 At Seattle (N)
15 PITTSBURGH (N)
23 At San Diego (N)
29 BALTIMORE (N)

1980 SCHEDULE		1979 SCORES	
September	7 At Minnesota		
	14 At New England		
	21 MIAMI		
	28 At San Francisco		15-20
October	5 DETROIT		23-24
	12 NY JETS		
	19 At New Orleans		40-34
	26 LOS ANGELES		13-34
November	2 At Buffalo		
	9 At St. Louis		
	16 NEW ORLEANS		6-37
	23 CHICAGO		
	30 WASHINGTON		7-16
December	7 At Philadelphia		14-10
	14 SAN FRANCISCO		31-21
	21 At Los Angeles		14-20



Falcons' running back William Andrews

also expects continued improvement from last year's No. 1 draft choice, end Don Smith, who led the club with eight sacks despite playing with an injured wrist. Mike Lewis and Jeff Yeates have experience in backup roles.

Somehow, Bennett needs to find more effective pass rushing—without relying on the blitz so often. At linebacker, the retirement of long-time team leader Greg Brezina leaves the door open for four rookies to make a mark: second-rounder Buddy Curry of North Carolina, fourth-rounder Jim Laughlin of Ohio State, fifth-rounder Brad Vassar of Pacific, and eighth-rounder Al Richardson of Georgia Tech.

Curry is a 6-3, 215-pounder who reminds Bennett of Fulton Kuykendall, the Falcons' respected left linebacker who had only a fair season last year. Laughlin was chosen Ohio State's most valuable player on its Rose Bowl team. All the rookies may have to take a back seat to second-year linebacker Joel Williams, a free agent and backup for middle man Robert Pennywell, who had a below par year.

"Williams is a fine athlete who was able to make some plays in our last games that our other linebackers have not been able to make," said Bennett. The situation is unsettled enough that young veterans Brian Cabral, Ron McCartney, and Dewey McClain also will be factors.

In the secondary, five rookies will be thrown into the pot in hopes of stirring up change. Third-round cornerback Earl Jones of Norfolk State "has the natural ability and the intelligence to make an immediate contribution," said Bennett. If so, it will be at right corner, where Rick Byas had an off year. Cornerback Rolland Lawrence had six interceptions to stay among league leaders at his position and free safety Tom Pridemore also appears solid. But strong safety Ray Easterling was slow recovering from an elbow injury. The Falcons took four safeties in the draft—Mike Davis, Kenny Johnson, Walt Bellamy, and Mike Babb—so

The subpar season by punter James was accompanied by less-than-average performances from most of the Falcons' special teams. The only thing they did well was cover punts, but the same people could not seem to get their tackles together against kickoffs.

Pearson and Ryckman averaged fewer than ten yards in punt returns, and Pearson and Ray Strong helped the team finish 26th in kickoff returns.



Quarterback Steve Bartkowski spurs Atlanta offense; Rolland Lawrence and Tom Pridemore anchor the defense.



Mazzetti, a hero in 1978, took his fall from glory with good nature and perception. If his attitude rubs off on the rest of his young teammates, 1980 may be a season of real progress rather than artificial success.

"I think all of the good press caught up to me," said Mazzetti. "I realized how easily I could screw up. But I got a second chance. I'm glad for this year because it can only make me

FALCONS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
31	Andrews, William	RB	6-0	200	25	2	Auburn
10	Bartkowski, Steve	QB	6-4	213	28	6	California
44	Bean, Bubba	RB	5-11	195	26	4	Texas A&M
66	Bryant, Warren	T	6-6	270	25	4	Kentucky
38	Byas, Rick	DB	5-9	180	30	7	Wayne St.
51	Cabral, Brian	LB	6-0	209	24	2	Colorado
21	Cain, Lynn	RB	6-1	205	25	2	USC
61	Correal, Chuck	C	6-3	247	24	2	Penn. St.
55	Daykin, Tony	LB	6-1	215	25	4	Ga. Tech
32	Easterling, Ray	S	6-0	192	31	9	Richmond
74	Faumuina, Wilson	DT	6-5	275	26	4	S. Jose St.
77	Fields, Edgar	DT	6-2	255	26	4	Texas A&M
9	Fortner, Larry	QB	6-4	212	25	1	Miami (O)
89	Francis, Wallace	WR	5-11	190	29	8	Ark. A&N
88	Gilbert, Lewis	TE	6-4	225	24	2	Florida
36	Glazebrook, Bob	CB	6-1	200	24	3	Fresno St.
64	Howell, Pat	G	6-5	253	23	2	USC
85	Jackson, Alfred	WR	5-11	176	25	3	Texas
6	James, John	P	6-3	200	31	9	Florida
84	Jenkins, Alfred	WR	5-10	172	28	6	Mor. Brown
14	Jones, June	QB	6-4	200	27	4	Port. St.
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6-6	257	24	3	Michigan
33	King, Jerome	CB	5-10	173	25	1	Purdue
54	Kuykendall, Fulton	LB	6-5	225	27	6	UCLA
22	Lawrence, Roland	CB	5-10	179	29	8	Tabor
69	Lewis, Mike	DT	6-4	261	31	10	Ark. A&N
39	Mayberry, James	RB	5-11	210	23	2	Colorado
4	Mazzetti, Tim	K	6-1	175	24	3	Penn.
56	McCartney, Ron	LB	6-1	220	26	4	Tennessee
52	McClain, Dewey	LB	6-3	236	26	5	E. Cen. Ok.
73	McKinney, Phil	T	6-4	248	26	5	UCLA
75	Morrow, Jeff	DE	6-4	230	27	6	West Va.
87	Mikeska, Russ	TE	6-3	225	25	2	Texas A&M
45	Moriarty, Tom	S	6-0	185	27	4	Bowl. Green
15	Moroski, Mike	QB	6-4	200	23	2	Cal-Davis
81	Pearson, Dennis	WR	5-11	177	25	3	S. Diego St.
59	Pennywell, Robert	LB	6-1	222	26	5	Grambling
27	Pridemore, Tom	S	5-10	186	24	3	West Va.
28	Reed, Frank	CB	5-11	193	26	5	Washington
82	Ryckman, Billy	WR	5-11	172	25	4	La. Tech
53	Ryzek, Paul	C	6-2	230	28	7	Virginia
70	Scott, Dave	G	6-4	285	27	5	Kansas
65	Smith, Don	DE	6-5	248	23	2	Miami
24	Stanback, Haskel	RB	6-0	210	28	7	Tennessee
25	Strong, Ray	RB	5-9	184	24	3	Las Vegas
68	Thielemann, R. C.	G	6-4	247	25	4	Arkansas
57	Van Note, Jeff	C	6-2	247	34	12	Kentucky
58	Williams, Joel	LB	6-0	215	24	2	LaCrosse
83	Wright, James	TE	6-3	240	24	2	TCU
79	Yeates, Jeff	DT	6-3	248	29	9	Boston Col.
63	Zele, Mike	DT	6-3	236	24	2	Kent St.

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Miller, Junior	TE	6-4	235	23	Nebraska
2	Curry, Bud	LB	6-3	221	22	N. Carolina
3	Jones, Earl	DB	6-0	178	23	Norfolk St.
4	Laughlin, Jim	LB	6-0	212	22	Ohio St.
4	Hipp, I. M.	RB	5-9	192	24	Nebraska
5	Vassar, Brad	LB	6-1	218	23	Pacific
5	Johnson, Ken	S	5-10	169	22	Miss. St.
6	Davis, Mike	S	6-1	213	23	Colorado
7	Smith, Mike	WR	5-10	194	22	Grambling
8	Richardson, Al	LB	6-2	206	23	Ga. Tech.
9	Keller, Glen	C	6-3	230	24	W. Tex. St.
10	Bellamy, Walt	S	5-11	195	22	VMI
11	Babb, Mike	S	6-1	193	23	Oklahoma
12	Jones, Quinn	RB	6-1	215	24	Tulsa

Defensive end Don Smith (top), offensive tackle Warren Bryant (middle), linebacker Ron McCartney (left), and punter John James (#6) hope to overtake the Rams in the NFC West.

stronger. I mean, there's nothing I haven't seen in two years. I've been at the best and I've been at the worst. I've seen them both, so what it comes down to is that I'm not nervous anymore."

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers There is not much else the San Francisco 49ers could do in 1980 to match the intrigue and drama of their draft. It might be the high point of their season, as it often is for the have-nots of the NFL.

The first priority of Bill Walsh is to not lose 14 games. Every team must have its goals—realistic goals. The 49ers already hold the league record for most seasons with 14 losses—two, and most consecutive seasons with 14 losses—two.

Ending this embarrassing streak should not be too difficult in the parity era. After all, the 49ers may have lost 14 games, but they were only seven victories away from the Super Bowl. They lost by three points and six points to the mighty Los Angeles Rams. They lost four games in the final quarter, two in the final 90 seconds.

The 49ers may have been 2-14, but they were a better 2-14 team than the 1978 2-14 team. Walsh is on the right track, as they say for the season ticket holders. It is not likely, however, that a third 2-14 season in a row would convince many fans to jump on the bandwagon, even if it were a better 2-14 team than the 1979 2-14 team.

It is also unlikely that anyone could survive another draft day with so much mystery and surprise. Since the 49ers' 2-14 record was not as bad as the Detroit Lions' 2-14 record, Walsh had the second pick in the draft. The rumor pick. Everybody knows the No. 1 team is going to take the No. 1 player. Since opinions on the No. 2 player vary, the rumors fly. Will the 49ers take quarterback Marc Wilson with the second pick? Will it be Junior Miller? Will it be Lam Jones? Will it be Anthony Munoz? Will it be traded?

The fact that Walsh traded the pick to the New York Jets for the Jets' thirteenth and twentieth picks in the first round indicates several things about Walsh's thinking for 1980.

First of all, he realized no one player was going to turn a 2-14 club into 14-2. When quarterback Wilson still was available on the thirteenth pick, experts around the country figured Walsh had pulled a genius maneuver. He gets the man he wanted plus another first rounder.

But Walsh passed up the passer and took Rice running back Earl Cooper instead. The sigh you heard belonged to Steve DeBerg, and deservedly so. Instead of replacing DeBerg at quarterback, Walsh got help for him, and why not? In one year under Walsh, DeBerg jumped from the 28th-ranked passer in the NFL to fifth in the NFC. DeBerg set league records for completions and attempts and the lowly 49ers excited their faithful by fielding the sixth-ranked offensive club in the NFL. They moved the ball and DeBerg completed 60 percent of his passes, as all quarterbacks should do in Walsh's ball-control pass offense.

"Steve DeBerg handled the offense better than any second-year quarterback I've ever worked with," said Walsh.

DeBerg is Walsh's man, but that doesn't

Quarterback Steve DeBerg passed for 3,652 yards—third in NFL—last year.

NFCwest



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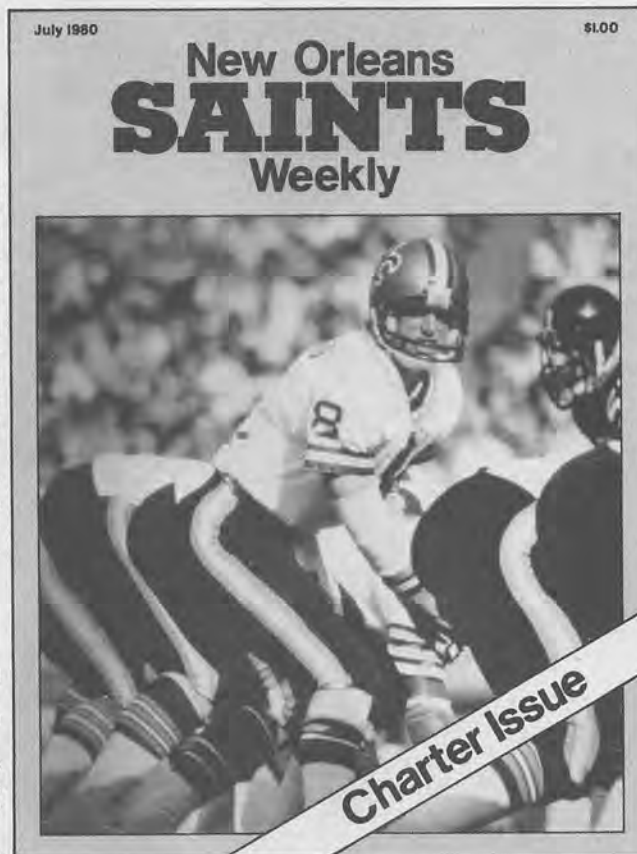
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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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top priority. Cooper is big at 6-2, 227, and can catch the ball—a vital skill in Walsh's offense. Walsh says, "At full stride, he will be one of the fastest runners in the NFL." Getting him to full stride is the key, of course. At Rice, Cooper had rare opportunity to get past the line of scrimmage, but the beating he took with that lowly Southwest Conference school only enhanced his pro value. If he can star at Rice, he can star in San Francisco.

Cooper's addition also is designed to improve the effectiveness of halfback Paul Hofer, a quality producer who is slowed by nagging injuries. At six-foot, 195 pounds, Hofer can't seem to last an entire season. Hofer totaled 1,277 yards (662 on pass receptions and 615 on rushes) and was one of only four NFL backs to average five yards a carry. His 11.4 yards a catch was tops among all league backs.

"I think if Paul could play 16 games he'd gain over 1,000 yards rushing and catch 60 passes," said Walsh. "But projecting that is unrealistic unless we spot him or alternate him with someone else, to keep him healthier." Enter Cooper.

Although Walsh has suggested Cooper might line up at fullback, too, incumbent Wilbur Jackson had a good season and remains an excellent blocker and receiver. His 53 catches was third on the team. Hofer caught 58. Phil Francis, a second-year man, could challenge Jackson.

DeBerg also throws to wide receivers occasionally, although not enough to justify drafting Lam Jones. Freddie Solomon caught 57 passes. He led the league after 11 weeks and then minor injuries limited his productivity. Mike Shumann is the flanker, but Walsh still has not decided what to do with last year's top draft choice, James Owens. Walsh says the former UCLA halfback will start at wide receiver, but adds, "There still is a possibility that he will see some action at defensive back. I don't want to close the door on that, yet."

Too bad, because no athlete can survive the musical chairs game for long in pro football. Dwight Clark is also a factor at wide receiver, as is new acquisition Jimmy Robinson from the New York Giants.

mean another second-year man, Joe Montana, is a lost cause. Listen to Walsh closely: "There were points in the season where Steve made gross errors, and while it demonstrated itself less and less often, it was still there. He must correct that. At this point in his development, I don't know how much he can improve. Now other quarterbacks botch up, too, so we'll see how he develops playing under real stress."

Obviously, DeBerg's draft-day sigh was pre-

mature. Montana was the only other quarterback on San Francisco's roster last year. So unless Walsh has secret plans for the ninth-round draft choice, Dan Hartwig of Cal Lutheran, Montana remains No. 2.

Walsh was convinced that DeBerg would have been more effective had he been able to work with an explosive offensive player such as Tony Dorsett or Chuck Muncie. So the drafting of Cooper, called a Chuck Muncie type, was a

San Francisco's Paul Hofer (below) accumulated 1,277 yards rushing and receiving last season; WR Freddie Solomon (inset) had 57 receptions for the 49ers.



1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Werschling, 92 points on 20 field goals and 32 PAT's... 5th
 RUSHING—Hofer, 123 carries for 615 yards, 5.0 avg., 7 TD's... 17th
 PASSING—DeBerg, 347 of 578 attempts for 3652 yards, 17 TD's... 5th
 RECEIVING—Hofer, 58 receptions for 662 yards, 11.4 avg., 2 TD's... 7th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Hicks, 5 for 57 yards, 11.4 avg... 12th
 PUNTING—Melville, 71 punts, 37.0 avg., longest 53 yards... 14th
 PUNT RETURNS—Solomon, 23 for 142 yards, 6.2 avg... 9th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Owens, 41 for 1002 yards, 24.4 avg., 1 TD... 3rd

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 9 OAKLAND (N)
 16 At San Diego (N)
 23 SEATTLE (N)
 30 Kansas City (N at Tucson)

1980 SCHEDULE 1979 SCORES

September	7 At New Orleans	20-31
	14 ST. LOUIS	—
	21 At NY Jets	—
	28 ATLANTA	20-15
October	5 At Los Angeles	24-27
	12 At Dallas	13-21
	19 LOS ANGELES	20-26
	26 TAMPA BAY	23-7
November	2 At Detroit	—
	9 At Green Bay	—
	16 At Miami	—
	23 NY GIANTS	16-32
	30 NEW ENGLAND	—
December	7 NEW ORLEANS	21-30
	14 At Atlanta	21-31
	21 BUFFALO	—

NFC West

At tight end, starter Ken MacAfee is a good blocker, but not the type receiver Walsh likes for his passing game. The acquisition of former All-Pro Charlie Young from Los Angeles may solve Walsh's dilemma if Young can regain old form. Walsh had enough confidence in Young to pass up drafting Junior Miller. Bob Bruer is another tight end used in passing situations.

That Walsh ignored offensive tackle Munoz in the draft, and in fact drafted only Cooper and Hartwig on offense, shows confidence in his young blockers. Despite the intensity of San Francisco's passing game, DeBerg was sacked only 17 times, which speaks for itself. Left tackle Ron Singleton improved more than any other blocker. Left guard John Ayers, in his fourth season, is one of the few young linemen whose run blocking must catch up to his pass blocking. Fred Quillan played his first full year as a starting center and performed well enough for former center Randy Cross to move to right guard. Walsh calls Cross his best lineman. Keith Fahnhorst is a fixture at right tackle, the old pro in his seventh year. Jean Barrett, Walt Downing, and Ernie Hughes provide young and potentially outstanding depth.

Defense was not the 49ers' ticket last year, so Walsh made four trades and drafted seven defensive players. One of the draftees is punter Jim Miller, who averaged 44 yards barefoot at Mississippi and never had a kick blocked. Miller will use a shoe in the pros, says Walsh, who was so ecstatic over his third-round choice that he booted incumbent Dan Melville the next day.

Walsh used his second choice in the first round to take Clemson defensive tackle Jim Stuckey, assuring the 49ers' use of the 4-3. Stuckey is expected to line up beside Archie

Reese. The latter is switching from end. Jimmy Webb also will switch to end. Dwaine Board is a "potential rising star" at end, and that enabled Walsh to unload longtime defensive star Cedrick Hardman.

However they line up, the line must improve its pass rush, 21st in the league last year. Another possibility is end Willie Fry, acquired from the Pittsburgh Steelers for a twelfth-round choice. A sleeper in the draft is Southern U.'s defensive tackle Ken Times.

Linebacking is even more unsettled, with strong-side man Willie Harper the only thing close to a sure bet. Walsh made Purdue's Keena Turner his second-round pick, the 39th player in the draft. He could start at weakside linebacker, where seven players started last season. But just to protect themselves in case Turner fails, the 49ers also drafted linebackers Craig Puki of Tennessee, David Hodge of Houston, and Bobby Leopold of Notre Dame, and acquired flamboyant Thomas Henderson from Dallas. In the middle, Scott Hilton, a second-year free agent from no college, is proving the scouts human by outplaying Dan Bunz, a No. 1 draft choice from Cal State-Long Beach.

Trades brought in cornerback Ray Rhodes from the Giants and cornerback-safety Scott Perry from Cincinnati in an effort to settle a merry-go-round situation in the secondary. Melvin Morgan should start at left cornerback, where he started last season before moving to free safety, then strong safety, then injured reserve. The other corner could be Rhodes, Charles Cornelius, or Gerard Williams, unless draftee Herb Williams of Southern is as good a "sleeper" as old teammate Times is supposed to be.

Free safety Dwight Hicks is the only solid starter in the secondary. The strong safety probably will be Tim Gray. Eric Johnson or draftee Ricky Churchman, the third Texas

defensive back selected, could challenge.

Hicks, Owens, and Solomon provide potentially explosive punt and kickoff returns. Owens was fifth in the league.

Ray Wersching gives Walsh dependable field-goal kicking. His 20 of 24 last year ranked second in the league. This year, Walsh plans to get close enough for Wersching to get more opportunity. If his draft moves materialize, the 49ers not only will win more than two games, they could move out of fourth place.

FORTY NINERS VETERAN ROSTER

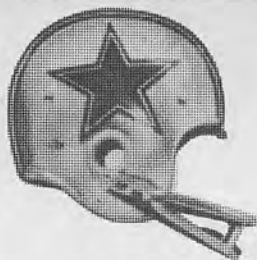
NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
47	Aldridge, J.	RB	6-2	220	24	1	Angelo St.
	Anderson, T.	WR	5-10	182	27	3	B. Cookman
68	Ayers, J.	G	6-5	247	27	4	W. Texas St.
77	Barrett, J.	T	6-6	250	29	8	Tulsa
76	Board, D.	DE	6-5	245	24	2	N. Caro. A&T
54	Bradley, E.	LB	6-1	225	30	8	Wake Forest
82	Bruer, B.	TE	6-5	235	27	2	Mankato St.
	Bungarda, K.	DE	6-6	270	23	R	Missouri
57	Bunz, D.	LB	6-4	230	25	3	Long Beach
87	Clark, D.	WR	6-3	205	23	2	Clemson
28	Cornelius, C.	CB	5-9	178	28	4	B. Cookman
51	Cross, R.	G	6-3	255	26	5	UCLA
17	DeBerg, S.	QB	6-2	205	26	4	San Jose St.
62	Downing, W.	C-G	6-3	254	24	3	Michigan
35	Elliott, L.	RB	6-0	210	29	8	N.E. Mo. St.
71	Fahnhorst, K.	T	6-6	263	28	7	Minnesota
	Farrell, K.	WR	6-0	178	25	1	Fresno St.
38	Ferrell, B.	FB	6-0	213	28	5	UCLA
	Folston, J.	TE	6-3	246	24	1	Kansas St.
48	Francis, P.	FB	6-1	215	23	2	Stanford
30	Gray, T.	S	6-1	200	28	6	Texas A&M
	Hall, D.	WR	6-3	197	24	1	Missouri-Rolla
59	Harper, W.	LB	6-2	215	22	7	Nebraska
83	Harrison, K.	WR	6-0	170	27	4	SMU
	Henderson, C.	DB	6-2	205	25	1	Marquette
	Henderson, T.	LB	6-2	220	27	6	Langston
22	Hicks, D.	S	6-1	189	24	2	Michigan
55	Hilton, S.	LB	6-4	230	26	2	No College
36	Hofer, P.	RB	6-0	195	28	5	Mississippi
65	Hughes, E.	G	6-3	250	25	2	Notre Dame
40	Jackson, W.	FB	6-2	219	29	6	Alabama
44	Johnson, C.	CB	5-10	180	24	2	Grambling
24	Johnson, E.	S	6-1	192	28	4	Wash. St.
60	Knutson, S.	G-T	6-3	254	29	5	USC
	Lindquist, S.	G-T	6-6	260	24	1	Nebraska
	Lockett, F.	WR	6-0	195	23	1	Nebraska
81	MacAfee, K.	TE	6-4	245	24	3	Notre Dame
52	McIntyre, J.	LB	6-3	232	25	2	Arizona State
16	Montana, J.	QB	6-2	200	24	2	Notre Dame
46	Morgan, M.	CB	6-0	186	27	5	Miss. Valley
66	Nelson, B.	LB	6-4	230	27	4	Nebraska
20	Owens, J.	WR-RB	5-11	188	25	2	UCLA
	Perry, S.	S	6-0	180	26	4	Williams
56	Quillan, F.	C	6-5	254	24	3	Oregon
80	Ramson, E.	TE	6-2	234	24	3	Wash. St.
78	Reese, A.	DE	6-3	262	24	3	Clemson
	Rhodes, R.	DB	5-11	185	30	7	Tulsa
	Robinson, J.	WR	5-9	170	27	5	Ga. Tech
53	Seabron, T.	LB	6-3	215	23	2	Michigan
85	Seal, P.	TE	6-4	227	28	7	Michigan
84	Shumann, M.	WR	6-0	175	25	3	Florida St.
67	Singleton, R.	T	6-7	267	28	4	Grambling
88	Solomon, F.	WR	5-11	188	27	6	Tampa
	Sutton, D.	OL	6-3	260	27	1	Pacific
72	Vaughan, R.	DT	6-2	264	24	2	Colorado
75	Vincent, T.	DT	6-4	265	24	3	Wichita St.
74	Webb, J.	DT	6-5	245	28	6	Miss. St.
14	Wersching, R.	PK	5-11	210	30	8	California
28	Williams, G.	CB	6-1	184	28	4	Langston
	Young, C.	TE	6-4	240	29	8	USC

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Cooper, Earl	RB	6-2	227	23	Rice
1	Stuckey, Jim	DL	6-4	251	22	Clemson
2	Turner, Keena	LB	6-2	219	22	Purdue
3	Miller, Jim	P	5-11	183	23	Mississippi
3	Puki, Craig	LB	6-1	231	23	Tennessee
4	Churchman, Ricky	S	6-1	193	22	Texas
4	Hodge, David	LB	6-2	221	23	Houston
5	Times, Ken	DT	6-2	246	24	Southern
6	Williams, Herb	DB	6-0	198	22	Southern
8	Leopold, Bob	LB	6-1	215	23	Notre Dame
9	Hartwig, Dan	QB	6-3	212	23	Cal Lutheran

Second-round draft pick Keena Turner will compete for starting LB job with 49ers.





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NFC East

WASHINGTON REDSKINS The Redskins are the team that miraculously escaped from the hearse en route to the graveyard.

This is the team that missed the play-offs by about three seconds or four points, however you want to look at the tie-breaking rules that broke the Redskin hearts in Dallas on the last day of the regular season. This is the team with Joe Theismann, the No. 2 ranked quarterback in football last year.

When the No. 1 quarterback, Dallas's Roger Staubach, quits, things begin to look brighter for the Redskins. When they get their first No. 1 draft choice since 1968, the Redskins are picked No. 1 in the NFC East by the prognosticators.

Coach Jack Pardee may be right when he says, "Our division was the only one with three ten-game winners, but any of the five East teams can win the title in 1980." But Pardee, an original "Over the Hill" member, also thinks he has the best chance.

"I honestly felt we were better than Dallas last year—except for Staubach," said Pardee. "He carried them."

Of the Redskins' six losses in a remarkable season, only three were convincing. Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and the Giants beat them soundly. Otherwise, the Redskins lost by two to the Oilers after blowing a 13-point lead, by four to the Saints after failing to score on 13 plays of a series which began inside the New Orleans ten, and by one to the Cowboys after blowing 17- and 13-point leads in the season finale.

"We handled the Cowboys fairly easy in our other game," said Pardee, who gets no greater joy than beating his old rival, Tom Landry. The Redskins will get an early chance to establish superiority this year. Dallas and Washington open the Monday night TV schedule on September 8.

They already have an edge in Theismann, who will be 31 on September 9. The former Notre Damer, who has avoided stardom for nearly a decade, is coming off the best performance by a Redskin quarterback in the decade of the seventies. His rating of 84.0 was second highest in the NFL to Staubach,

and his 20 touchdowns were a personal best.

"Joe is still in a position to improve in 1980 and he is in the vital position with additional emphasis in the NFL now placed on passing," said Pardee.

That additional emphasis persuaded the Redskins to forego their desire for a pass rusher in favor of a pass catcher in the draft. With their first No. 1 pick since Jim "Yazoo" Smith in 1968, the Redskins grabbed Syracuse wide receiver Art Monk, ranked and chosen behind only Texas's Olympic sprinter, Johnny "Lam" Jones. The Redskins thought so much of Monk that they immediately traded their leading receiver of 1979, Danny Buggs, to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for cornerback Jeris White. Buggs had his best year ever last season, catching 46 passes for 631 yards, 14 more than running back Clarence Harmon and 21 more than the nearest Redskin wide receiver, John McDaniel.

Although the Redskin offense was not overpowering, ranking eighteenth in the league, it was tenth in scoring; Theismann proved efficient by finishing second in third-down conversions—again to Staubach. Theismann also kept interceptions down. His touchdown-pass-to-interception ratio was again second only to Staubach.

The primary benefit of Theismann's season, however, was the self-confidence it brought. This is a man who has shouldered pressure for years, and now the pressure of knowing he can play is off.

The 10-6 record in a rebuilding year also will carry over. "I think you have to start all over every year, but I think the big advantage of momentum carrying over for us is that the

players really believe they can win consistently," said Pardee.

Monk is expected to provide instant firepower to the Redskin offense. He was so highly regarded that Pardee and general manager Bobby Beathard not only passed up a defensive lineman in the first round, they ignored another area of need—halfback. Although Monk played some running back at Syracuse, Pardee plans to use him strictly at wide receiver opposite McDaniel and Ricky Thompson.

Last year's first draft choice, tight end Don Warren, who came in the fifth round, also proved a valuable weapon target for Theismann. Warren caught 26 passes and quickly made the exit of veteran Jean Fugett forgettable. Phil DuBois played in 15 games as a backup and special teamer.

Fullback John Riggins, also 31, proved life begins at 30 in Washington by turning in his best season in a nine-year career. Riggins moved into the ninth spot of the NFL's all-time rushers by adding 1,153 yards, for a total of 6,822. Riggins showed no signs of slowing down by reeling off the longest run of his career, 66 yards, against Dallas in the 35-34 finale.

Riggins remains the key to Theismann's running game, but the Redskins expect more outside help this year than they got in 1979 from Benny Malone et al. Although Malone is an outstanding blocker, he averaged only 2.7 yards a carry, hardly a frightening statistic for defenses. Buddy Hardeman, Ike Forte, and Bobby Hammond provided backup help at halfback, but the Redskins plan on more aid by the time the season starts.

Riggins has adequate help at his spot, with Clarence Harmon and Don Testerman. Harmon caught 32 passes and led the club in touchdown catches with five. Buggs caught only one from his wide receiver spot, one reason the Redskins felt he was expendable.

Washington's offensive line is a tough bunch of self-made men. Only tackle Terry Hermeling is an original Redskin, signing as a free agent in 1970. The other starters are all castoffs of other clubs. They missed only one game among them in 1979 and should be

1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Moseley, 114 points on 25 field goals and 39 PAT's. 1st
RUSHING—Riggins, 260 carries for 1153 yards, 4.4 avg., 9 TD's. 6th
PASSING—Theismann, 233 of 395 attempts for 2797 yards, 20 TD's. 2nd
RECEIVING—Buggs, 46 receptions for 631 yards, 13.7 avg., 1 TD. 19th
INTERCEPTIONS—Parrish, 9 for 65 yards, 7.2 avg., 1st
PUNTING—Bragg, 78 punts, 38.4 avg., longest 74 yards. 12th
PUNT RETURNS—Hardeman, 24 for 207 yards, 8.6 avg., 5th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Hammond, 25 for 544 yards, 21.8 avg., 9th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

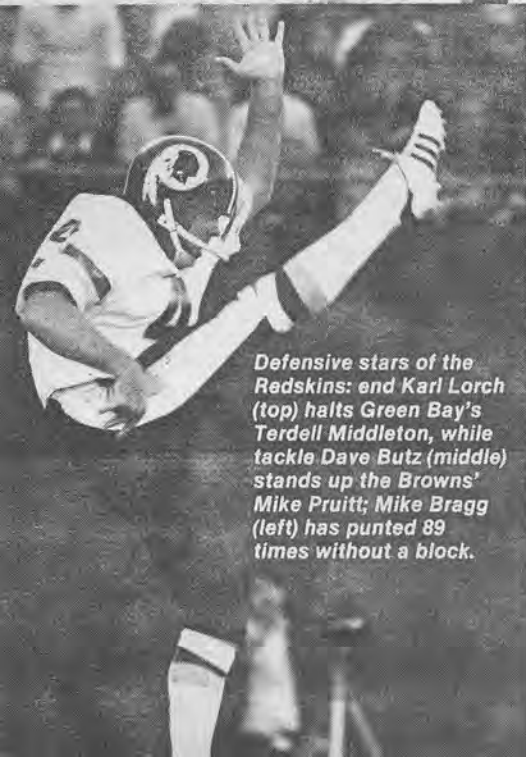
August 9 At Baltimore (N)
18 At Cleveland (N)
23 OAKLAND (N)
29 At Tampa Bay (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

September	8 DALLAS (N)	34-20
	14 At NY Giants	6-14
	21 At Oakland	—
	28 SEATTLE	—
October	5 At Philadelphia	17-28
	13 At Denver (N)	—
	19 ST. LOUIS	30-28
	26 NEW ORLEANS	10-14
November	2 MINNESOTA	—
	9 At Chicago	—
	16 PHILADELPHIA	17-7
	23 At Dallas	34-35
	30 At Atlanta	16-7
December	7 SAN DIEGO	—
	13 NY GIANTS	27-0
	21 At St. Louis	17-7

Quarterback Joe Theismann (far left), wide receiver and No. 1 draft pick Art Monk (#45), running back John Riggins (left), and linebacker Brad Dusek (right) make Washington a favorite in NFC East.





Defensive stars of the Redskins: end Karl Lorch (top) halts Green Bay's Terrell Middleton, while tackle Dave Butz (middle) stands up the Browns' Mike Pruitt; Mike Bragg (left) has punted 89 times without a block.

back intact. George Starke plays opposite Hermeling with Rich Saul and Jeff Williams at the guards and Bob Kuziel at center. Backup help comes from tackle Greg Dubinetz, guard Dan Nugent, and center Ted Fritsch.

Because Coy Bacon led the team in quarterback sacks at age 36 last season, a defensive lineman was thought to be a prime desire of Pardee in the first round of the draft. Two things helped change it. Bacon had 15 sacks, twice as many as anyone else, proving he is not yet ready to be put to pasture. The Redskins landed Mat Mendenhall in the second round and they think he is so good they almost took him on the first. The 6-6, 250-pounder from Brigham Young intrigued Beathard from the start, but when Beathard

found out not many other clubs were interested, he took a chance and let him lie around until round two. One of the reasons other clubs didn't take him was an appendicitis bout which left him playing last year at 210-220 pounds, a situation a few meals quickly corrected.

If Mendenhall can't make an immediate dent in the starting lineup, Pardee will go with Bacon and Karl Lorch at ends and Joe Jones and Dallas Hickman in reserve. The tackles are Dave Butz and 35-year-old Diron Talbert with young Perry Brooks and old Paul Smith behind them.

Pardee, an old linebacker, rebuilt that area overnight. It is now one of the team's strengths, anchored by Brad Dusek on the left and Pete Wysocki on the right. Neal Olkewicz had an outstanding rookie year in the middle, despite his six-foot, 218-pound size and his free agent beginnings. Olkewicz led the club in unassisted tackles even though he started only half the season in the middle. The linebackers are young in depth, too, with second-year men Rich Milot and Monte Coleman and third-year vet Don Hover on the roster.

The Redskin secondary is perhaps unmatched in football at a time when such an attribute is vital.

"Our source of concern is the same as with most teams," said Pardee. "How do you get consistent pass rush and secondary coverage with all the new rules that emphasize the offensive passing game?"

Pardee is ahead of most clubs with veterans Lemar Parrish and Joe Lavender at cornerback, the first and third leading interceptors, respectively, in the NFC. Parrish is 32 and Lavender 31, just reaching prime Redskin age. The addition of Jeris White from Tampa not only strengthens a solid area, it gives Beathard room to deal for an outside running threat.



Washington cornerback Lemar Parrish



Redskins' safety Ken Houston

REDSKINS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
60	Anderson, G.	G	6-3	250	25	2	Stanford
79	Bacon, C.	DE	6-4	265	37	13	Jackson St.
	Boyd, E.	WR	6-0	188	26	2	E. Kentucky
4	Bragg, M.	P	5-11	186	34	13	Richmond
69	Brooks, P.	DT	6-3	260	26	3	Southern
88	Bugs, D.	WR	6-2	185	27	6	W. Virginia
65	Butz, D.	DT	6-7	285	30	8	Purdue
51	Coleman, M.	LB	6-2	220	23	2	Cent. Arkan.
63	Dean, F.	G	6-3	253	25	4	Texas So.
67	Dubinetz, G.	G	6-4	260	26	2	Yale
86	DuBois, P.	TE	6-2	220	24	2	San Diego St.
59	Dusek, B.	LB	6-2	227	30	7	Texas A&M
30	Forte, I.	HB	6-0	211	26	5	Arkansas
66	Fritsch, T.	C-G	6-2	247	30	9	St. Norbert
	Gibbons, M.	T-G	6-4	262	29	3	SW Okla. St.
34	Hammond, B.	HB	5-10	170	28	5	Morgan St.
22	Hardeman, B.	HB	6-0	189	26	2	Iowa St.
38	Harmon, C.	FB	5-11	211	25	4	Miss. St.
26	Harris, D.	SS	6-2	185	26	3	Rutgers
75	Hermeling, T.	T	6-5	255	34	11	Reno
82	Hickman, D.	LB-DE	6-6	235	28	5	Berkeley
27	Houston, K.	SS	6-3	198	36	14	Prairie View
58	Hover, D.	LB	6-3	227	26	3	Wash. St.
77	Jones, J.	DE	6-6	250	32	10	Tenn. St.
54	Kuziel, B.	C	6-5	255	30	6	Pittsburgh
20	Lavender, J.	CB	6-4	190	31	8	San Diego St.
71	Lorch, K.	DE	6-3	258	30	5	USC
25	Malone, B.	HB	5-10	193	28	7	Arizona St.
80	McDaniel, J.	WR	6-1	197	29	7	Lincoln
11	McQuiken, K.	QB	6-3	203	29	7	Lehigh
	Milanovich, T.	DE	6-4	245	27	1	Wisn. Sup.
57	Milot, R.	LB	6-4	225	23	2	Penn St.
12	Mortensen, F.	QB	6-2	195	26	2	Arizona St.
3	Moseley, M.	K	6-0	205	32	9	S.F. Austin
29	Murphy, M.	FS	6-4	210	25	4	Colgate
62	Nugent, D.	G	6-3	250	27	4	Auburn
52	Olkewicz, N.	LB	6-0	218	23	2	Maryland
	Owens, M.	WR	6-0	200	27	6	Arizona St.
24	Parrish, L.	CB	5-10	180	33	11	Lincoln
23	Peters, T.	SS	6-1	185	27	6	Oklahoma
89	Richardson, G.	TE	6-4	225	28	2	Fullerton
44	Riggins, J.	FB	6-2	230	31	10	Kansas
64	Saul, R.	G	6-3	254	32	11	Michigan St.
78	Smith, P.	DE	6-3	255	35	13	New Mexico
74	Starke, G.	T	6-5	250	32	8	Columbia
72	Talbert, D.	DT	6-5	255	36	14	Texas
40	Testerman, D.	RB	6-2	230	28	4	Clemson
7	Thiesmann, J.	QB	6-0	195	31	7	Notre Dame
83	Thompson, R.	WR	6-0	174	26	5	Baylor
47	Waddy, R.	CB	5-11	175	24	2	Texas A&I
85	Warren, D.	TE	6-4	230	24	2	San Diego St.
	White, J.	DB	5-11	185	28	7	Hawaii
73	Williams, J.	T	6-4	255	25	3	Rhode Island
50	Wysocki, P.	LB	6-1	224	32	6	W. Michigan

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Monk, Art	WR	6-2	209	22	Syracuse
2	Mendenhall, Mat	DE	6-6	253	22	Brig. Young
6	Bell, Farley	LB	6-4	233	21	Cincinnati
7	Jones, Melvin	OG	6-2	260	22	Houston
9	McCullough, Lawrence	WR	5-11	193	21	Illinois
10	Walker, Lewis	RB	5-11	190	23	Utah
11	Matocha, Mike	DE	6-4	240	22	Arlington
12	Emmett, Marcene	CB	6-0	195	22	No. Alabama

Ken Houston probably is the best strong safety in history and he wants to play another year at age 36 after coming off injury last season. The Redskins will let him do it. Free safety Mark Murphy led the club in total tackles, including assists.

The Redskins' efficiency is reflected in the NFL takeaway-giveaway table, which the Skins led with a plus-22.

Few clubs can match the Redskins' special teams. "The Wild Bunch" led the NFL in punt and kickoff coverage, far ahead of all others.

Mark Moseley was the only place-kicker in football to make all his extra points, and Mike Bragg did not have a punt blocked. He has booted 89 in a row without a block and has only one block in 454 punts over the last five years.

Part of Pardee's success in rebuilding has been his ability to make it a team effort. Last year, six players rushed for over 100 yards and ten players caught ten or more passes, including seven who caught more than 20. A total of 11 players intercepted a pass, while 13 players recorded a sack and nine players recovered a fumble. A total of 13 players scored six or more points.

For the ninth consecutive season, the Redskins finished .500 or better. Only Oakland and Dallas can match that record of consistent success.

The Redskins appear rebuilt without missing a step. The rebuilding of Dallas should help them reach the top this year for the first time since 1972, when Pardee was a player and the Redskins went to the Super Bowl.

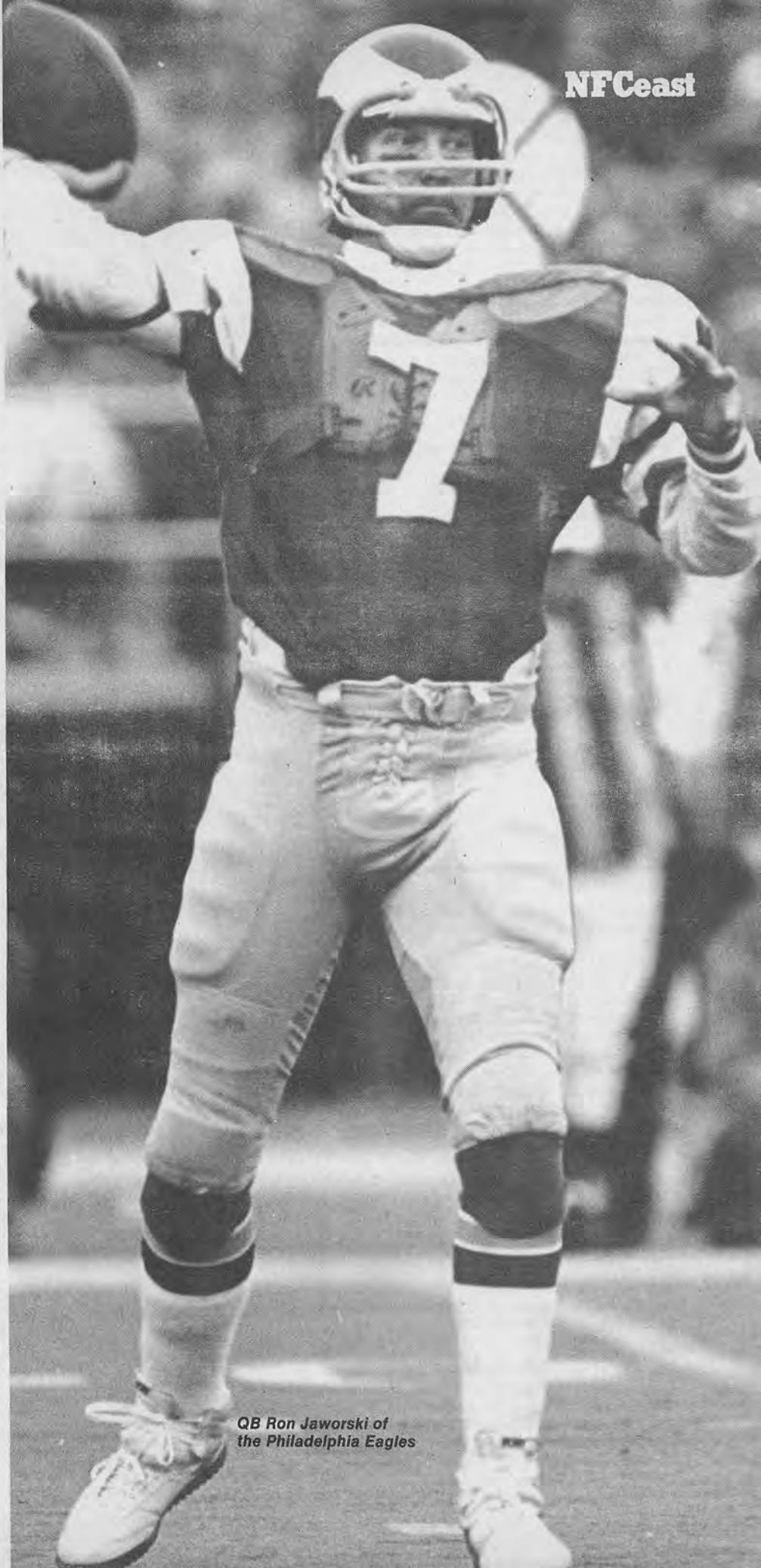
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES Why second? The Eagles finished ahead of the Washington Redskins in nearly every statistical category last season. Their 11-5 record got them into the play-offs as a wild card while Washington's 10-6 record got nowhere. The Eagles finished ahead of the Redskins in total offense, total defense, rushing offense, passing offense, kickoffs, punt returns, and quarterback sacks. Truly, there is not enough evidence to rate the Redskins higher. The Eagles and Redskins split their two games and split against their prime nemesis, Dallas.

So why the Eagles second? Simple. When two teams are close, the quarterback ranking means everything. Washington's Joe Theismann ranked ahead of Philadelphia's Ron Jaworski. Not by much, mind you. Theismann and Roger Staubach are the only NFC quarterbacks who ranked ahead of Jaworski.

In his third full year as a starter, Jaworski jumped from a 68 rating to a 76.8. He threw only 12 interceptions compared with 18 touchdown passes. Eagle coach Dick Vermeil expects more improvement.

"Ron has to continue to mature as a quarterback. If he has already reached his potential, then it's going to be hard to show that much more improvement offensively," Vermeil said. "But I don't think he has."

The question is whether the entire Eagles' team has reached its potential. Vermeil did coach-of-the-year jobs in 1978 and 1979, bringing a ragtag 4-10 and 5-9 team to records of 9-7 and 11-5. He did it without benefit of many draft choices or trades. He



QB Ron Jaworski of the Philadelphia Eagles

just remolded the character of a bunch of guys who didn't think they were very good and played like it.

Now they are ready for one of two things. Either they make a big jump in the play-offs, getting past the first round, or they stumble and level off until Vermeil can acquire more talent. Two years in a row, they have reached the play-offs, only to lose before round two. In 1978, they lost the wild-card game to Atlanta. Last year, they beat Chicago in the wild-card game and lost to Tampa Bay in the opening round.

1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Franklin, 105 points on 23 field goals and 36 PAT's... 2nd
RUSHING—Montgomery, 338 carries for 1512 yards, 4.5 avg., 9 TD's... 3rd
PASSING—Jaworski, 190 of 374 attempts for 2669 yards, 18 TD's... 3rd
RECEIVING—Carmichael, 52 receptions for 872 yards, 16.8 avg., 11 TD's... 15th
INTERCEPTIONS—Wilson, 4 for 70 yards, 17.5 avg., 14th
PUNTING—Runager, 74 punts, 39.6 avg., longest 57 yards... tie 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Sciarras, 16 for 182 yards, 11.4 avg., 1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Henry, 28 for 668 yards, 23.9 avg., 4th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 9 At Buffalo (N)
15 NY JETS (N)
24 At New England
30 At Oakland

1980 SCHEDULE

		1979 SCORES
September	7 DENVER	—
	14 At Minnesota	—
	22 NY GIANTS (N)	23-17
	28 At St. Louis	24-20
October	5 WASHINGTON	28-17
	12 At NY Giants	17-13
	19 DALLAS	17-24
	26 CHICAGO	—
November	2 At Seattle	—
	9 At New Orleans	26-14
	16 At Washington	7-17
	23 OAKLAND	—
	30 At San Diego	—
December	7 ATLANTA	10-14
	14 ST. LOUIS	16-13
	21 At Dallas	31-21

Despite the fact the Eagles sent seven players to the Pro Bowl last season, Vermeil is aware of the job he has done—and the task ahead:

"We went into the play-offs last year with fewer guys drafted in the first four rounds than anyone else in the play-offs, and by a large margin. In contrast to the Eagles, the two Super Bowl teams had double the number of supposedly quality players."

The key is Jaworski, who was not one of the Pro Bowlers but who could be if he improves his percentage of completions, Vermeil maintains. Jaworski hit 50.8 of his passes last year, lowest among the top nine quarterbacks in the NFC. Vermeil thinks this can be improved by more consistency on Jaworski's part and "a better design of what we ask him to do as coaches."

Any new designs, however, will not ignore getting the ball to 6-8 wide receiver Harold Carmichael. If Carmichael doesn't slow down at age 31, there is no reason he won't remain one of the few dominating players in the game. How to stop Carmichael is a question every opponent asks every week, mainly

The Eagles soar with linebacker Bill Bergey (top left), wide receiver Harold Carmichael (top right), linebacker Jerry Robinson (middle), and safety and punt returner John Sciarra (right).





because no one has found the answer. His 11 touchdown catches led all NFC receivers and he stretched his string of consecutive games with a pass reception to an NFL record 112.

"I would say Harold is within the top six or seven receivers in pro football," said Vermeil, who may be underrating his star. "The thing I've asked him to do each year as he gets older is to dedicate more time in the off-season to the way he makes a living. There is a possibility of slipping as you get older, but there is no reason for that to happen to

Harold at 31 if he invests the time in the off-season."

Can you imagine a muscular 6-8 Carmichael?

There is reason to be concerned about Carmichael's health because the other starter, Charlie Smith, is 30 and the three other wide receivers from last year's roster, Scott Fitzkee, Jerrold McRae, and Wally Henry, have not shown superstar potential.

Smith gets criticized in comparison to Carmichael, but Vermeil defends him: "Charlie catches a high percentage of the balls we throw to him, and I keep thinking we can get more out of his ability. I have to evaluate whether that's our fault as coaches in designing the passing game or Ron just not getting him the ball or Charlie not getting open."

There is a lack of speed among Eagle receivers that is reflected in the fact that tight end Keith Kreple was Jaworski's leading deep threat. Kreple averaged 18.5 yards for his 41 catches. No other tight end and few wide receivers did better. Improvement as a blocker could put Kreple into the Pro Bowl. John Spagnola is a competent backup.

Without the running of Wilbert Montgomery, the passing of Jaworski and the catching of Carmichael and Kreple would be meaningless. Montgomery ran for 1,512 yards and caught 41 passes for 494 more, making him the only 2,000-yard gainer in professional football.

"Wilbert is maybe the best football player on our team and, barring injury, he will be better this year," said Vermeil. "His receiving ability really picked up last year and I intend to exploit that more this season."

The addition of rookie Perry Harrington of Jackson State in the second round of the draft should help exploit Montgomery. Harrington is touted as an outstanding blocker. If Harrington can't break the starting lineup, it will be because last year's fullback, Leroy Harris, has improved in the off-season.

"I think he is just learning what it is to be an Eagle," Vermeil says of the former Dolphin. "I saw a tremendous improvement in his overall attitude toward the game as the season progressed last year."

Versatile Billy Campfield is the Preston Pearson of the Eagle backfield and a capable backup for Montgomery.

On the offensive line, there is concern at the guard spots, where Wade Key, 33, and Woody Peoples, 37, start. But the worry is partly offset by the presence of Pro Bowl tackles Stan Walters and Jerry Sisemore and solid center Guy Morriss. Second-year guard Petey Perot started six games as a rookie when Key was injured and he showed potential.

"We have to add some movement to the guard positions," said Vermeil.

Key had an operation on a hamstring muscle and Vermeil concedes that Peoples "really fell off over the second half of the last season." Vermeil calls left tackle Walters "definitely our top offensive lineman by a wide margin." But right tackle Sisemore couldn't be too far behind or else Pro Bowl voters would have ignored him in the glare from Walters' performance. Morriss made only one mental mistake during the 1979 season, his coaches said. Backup Mark

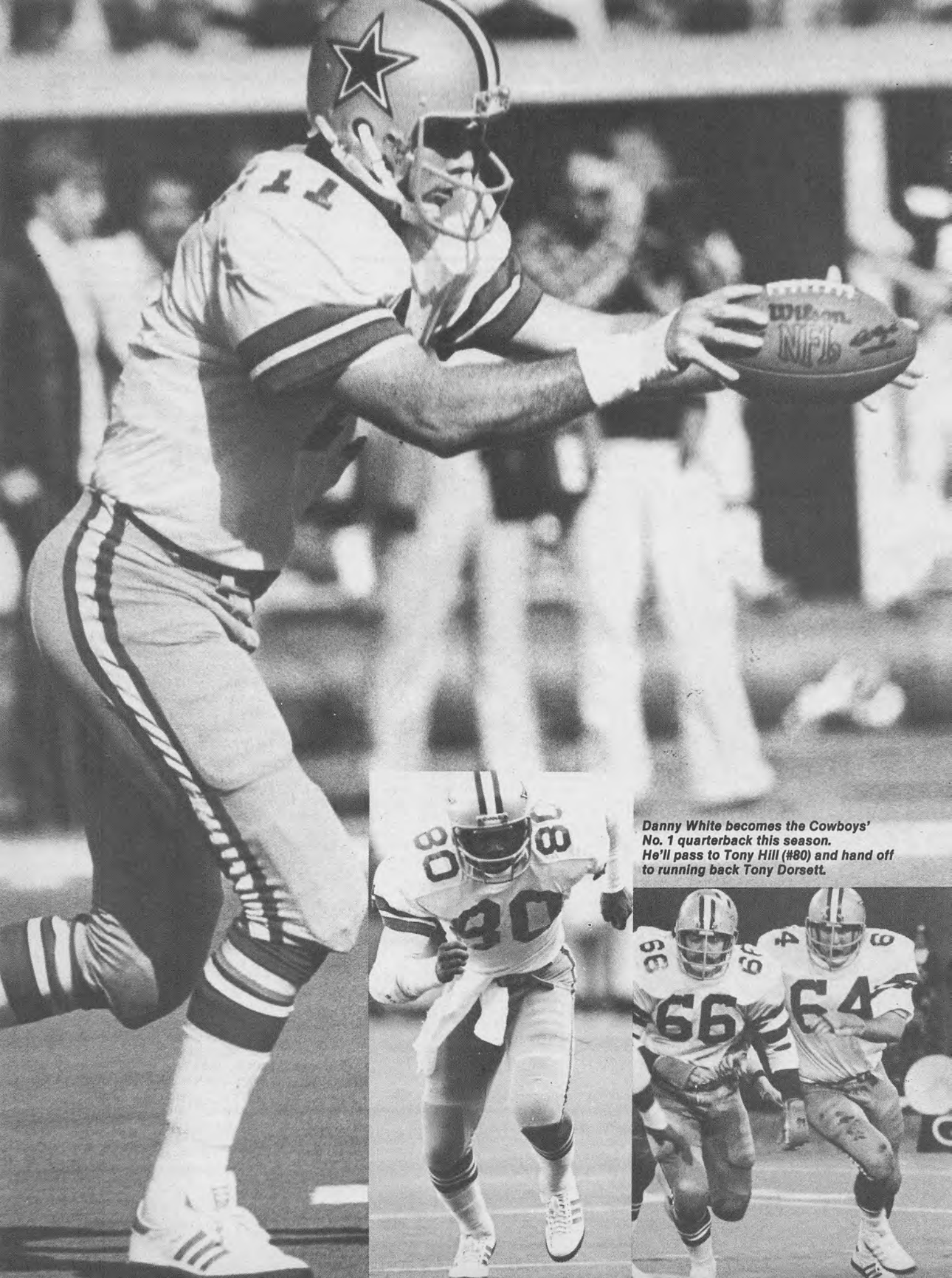
EAGLES VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
38	Barnes, L.	FB	5-11	220	26	4	Tenn. St.
66	Bergey, B.	LB	6-3	245	35	12	Ark. St.
34	Betterson, J.	RB	6-0	210	26	4	N. Carolina
	Biederman, L.	T	6-7	275	25	2	California
27	Blackmore, R.	CB	5-10	174	24	2	Miss. St.
95	Bunting, J.	LB	6-1	220	30	9	N. Carolina
67	Burnham, L.	DE	6-4	240	33	4	U.S. Int'l.
37	Campfield, B.	RB	6-0	205	24	3	Kansas
17	Carmichael, H.	WR	6-8	225	31	10	Southern
59	Chesley, A.	LB	6-3	240	23	2	Pittsburgh
71	Clarke, K.	MG	6-2	255	24	3	Syracuse
	Culbreath, J.	FB	6-0	210	28	4	Oklahoma
46	Edwards, H.	CB	6-0	190	26	4	S. Diego St.
81	Fitzkee, S.	WR	6-0	187	23	2	Penn St.
1	Franklin, T.	K	5-8	182	24	2	Texas A&M
33	Giammona	HB-KR	5-9	180	27	4	Utah St.
78	Hairston, C.	DE	6-3	245	28	5	Maryland E-S
20	Harris, L.	FB	5-9	230	26	4	Ark. St.
68	Harrison, D.	DE	6-8	275	24	3	Vanderbilt
89	Henry, W.	RS-WR	5-8	170	26	4	UCLA
23	Howard, B.	CB	6-1	175	36	14	S. Diego St.
87	Humphrey, C.	DE	6-5	265	36	13	Tenn. St.
	Hertel, R.	QB	6-2	195	25	2	USC
7	Jaworski, R.	QB	6-2	195	29	6	Youngstown
65	Johnson, C.	MG	6-3	262	28	4	Colorado
	Johnson, S.	DT	6-4	275	25	2	Tenn. St.
72	Key, W.	G	6-5	245	34	11	SW Texas St.
48	Kreple, K.	TE	6-3	225	28	6	Iowa St.
29	Latimer, A.	CB	5-11	172	23	2	Clemson
55	LeMaster, F.	LB	6-2	231	28	7	Kentucky
41	Logan, R.	S	6-1	195	29	8	Michigan
	Manges, M.	QB	6-2	210	24	2	Maryland
	McCray, W.	DE	6-5	255	27	2	Troy St.
82	McRae, J.	WR	6-0	187	25	3	Tenn. St.
24	Monroe, H.	CB	5-11	180	24	2	Miss. St.
31	Montgomery, W.	HB	5-10	195	26	4	Ab. Christian
50	Morriss, G.	C	6-4	255	29	8	TCU
69	Peoples, W.	G	6-2	252	37	11	Grambling
62	Perot, P.	G	6-2	261	23	2	N.W. La.
52	Phillips, R.	LB	6-4	217	26	4	Nebraska
	Pisarcik, J.	QB	6-4	220	28	4	N. Mex. St.
56	Robinson, J.	LB	6-2	216	24	2	UCLA
4	Runager, M.	P	6-1	189	24	2	S. Carolina
21	Sciarra, J.	S	5-11	185	26	3	UCLA
76	Sisemore, J.	T	6-4	260	29	8	Texas
79	Sistrunk, M.	DE	6-5	275	33	11	Pine Bluff
61	Slater, Mark	C	6-1	257	25	3	Minnesota
85	Smith, C.	WR	6-1	185	30	7	Grambling
88	Spagnola, J.	TE	6-4	240	23	2	Yale
58	Tautolo, T.	LB	6-2	235	26	5	UCLA
75	Walters, S.	T	6-6	270	32	9	Syracuse
51	Wilkes, R.	LB	6-4	230	24	3	Ga. Tech
22	Wilson, B.	S	6-0	170	25	2	Vanderbilt
	Wright, R.	OT	6-6	260	35	14	Fort Valley

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Young, Roynell	CB	6-1	181	23	Alcorn State
2	Harrington, Perry	WR	5-11	210	22	Jackson State
5	Rivers, Nate	RB	6-2	210	25	S.C. St.
6	Murtha, Greg	OT	6-6	261	23	Minnesota
7	Ward, Terrell	CB	5-9	190	23	S. Diego St.
8	Curcio, Mike	LB	6-1	237	23	Temple
9	Harris, Bob	OT	6-6	260	22	Bowl. Green
11	Jukes, Lee	WR	6-1	183	22	N.C. St.
11	Brown, Thomas	DE	6-4	240	23	Baylor
12	Fields, Howard	CB	5-10	188	22	Baylor

Philadelphia running back Wilbert Montgomery runs through holes opened by Guy Morriss (# 50), Wade Key (# 72), and Jerry Sisemore (left).



Danny White becomes the Cowboys' No. 1 quarterback this season. He'll pass to Tony Hill (#80) and hand off to running back Tony Dorsett.



Slater is a top long snapper. Depth is a problem with the retirement of tackle Rufus Mayes, but the Eagles have draft picks Greg Murtha of Minnesota or Bob Harris of Bowling Green can come through, or that former Dallas great Rayfield Wright can squeeze another season out of his career.

The Eagle defense, ninth in the league last year, should improve with the addition of No. 1 draft choice Roynell Young, a fleet cornerback from Alcorn A. & M., and the expected return from injury of premier linebacker Bill Bergey.

Although Bergey is 35, Vermeil says he is "going on 29. I really believe he will make it back because of the progress he has already made." If he doesn't, it won't be disastrous, because last year's No. 1 draft choice, Jerry Robinson, filled in with moments of brilliance after winning a starting job in the eleventh game.

"If he had played inside all last year, I think he would have made the Pro Bowl," said Vermeil. "Every coach I talked to said that."

With veteran Frank LeMaster also inside, Vermeil has a problem of whom to start where, because the Eagle linebacking is a team strength. Outside man John Bunting is as underrated as anyone in the league. Reggie Wilkes fell off a little in his second year on the other side. "He will have to perform a lot better to remain a starter," said Vermeil. Ray Phillips, Al Chesley, and Terry Tautolo all performed well in backup roles.

Where the Eagles have to improve their defense is against the run. They were eighteenth in the league last year despite their 3-4 alignment that is supposed to be so tough on runners.

The Eagles' best pass rusher is 36-year-old Claude Humphrey, who made ten sacks, 31 hurries, and several pushes toward the other end, Carl Hairston, who had 15 sacks. Vermeil was disappointed in Hairston's season despite the sacks. Huge Dennis Harrison is called potentially the best defensive lineman on the team. Nose guard Charlie Johnson made the Pro Bowl in his best season and is backed up by Kenny Clarke, who plays on passing downs along with Lem Burnham.

Rookie Young is supposed to replace 36-year-old left corner Bobby Howard, who contributed well after Vermeil rescued him from the junk pile. Herman Edwards holds his

own at right corner ("He's our top defensive back by far," says Vermeil) and the middle is solid with Randy Logan at strong safety and second-year man Brenard Wilson at free safety. Reserve John Sciarra can play either safety spot.

Sciarra is also typical of the depth Vermeil enjoys on his special teams. When former UCLA punt returner Wally Henry got hurt last year, Sciarra took over and merely led the league in average.

Max Runager provides above-average punting and Tony Franklin scored 105 points, 51 more than the Eagles got from their 1978 kicking game. This ability will enable Vermeil to overlook Franklin's lapses of concentration. As a rookie, he got into trouble more than once for ignoring Vermeil's orders on kickoffs.

"A lot depends on Tony Franklin maturing into a pro football player both on and off the field," said Vermeil.

Winning 11 games again probably will put the Eagles ahead of the Redskins again. But Vermeil cautions: "We could be a better team and not win as many games. We're definitely a play-off contender in what is without question the toughest division in the NFC. But with the schedule we have (nine games against teams that won nine or more games), it will be very hard to prove that we're a better football team. But I definitely think we will be."

DALLAS COWBOYS True, this doesn't happen very often. Once every decade or so, the Dallas Cowboys are neither first nor second. In 1974, for instance, they finished third in the East behind St. Louis and Washington. Then there was 1964, when they finished fifth in the Eastern Conference of the old NFL. We won't mention 1960-61-62-63 when Tom Landry was a neophyte and Roger Staubach was winning a Heisman Trophy.

Those were the bad old days and the Cowboys are not likely to return, at least not for long. For the short run, however, the

Cowboys are short-handed. Things started getting this way when Too Tall Jones ducked out for the 1979 season. Evidently, he started a trend.

The Cowboys, alas, are human. This revelation will do much for the confidence of other teams. The 1980 season does not bode well for the Cowboys. Besides, they gotta rebuild sometime, don't they? It happens to everyone, doesn't it? America's Team is in a recession.



Dallas coach Tom Landry

The loss of Staubach to retirement, of course, is the critical blow. It is possible that it is the only really important blow. People in the business like to announce that the quarterback gets too much blame and too much credit. This keeps the other working stiff happy in the knowledge that they, too, are contributors.

Watch a team play without a quarterback, however. Watch one get hurt. Watch an all-time great retire. Staubach's presence on the Cowboys was so vital that rival coach Jack Pardee refuses to believe he has retired.

"I like retirements announced in July or August, not during the winter," said Pardee. "I'm afraid as soon as they see they need him real bad, he might come back. I'll believe he's gone when I don't see him in September."

Staubach himself admitted at his March retirement party that he is "not adverse to helping out." Whatever that means, the Cowboys won't be laid to rest until Staubach fails to show up. They could possibly overcome the retirement of All-Pro safety Cliff Harris, the exit of All-Pro tackle Rayfield Wright, the off-field difficulties of Mike Hegman and Dennis Thurman, the distraction of Thomas Henderson, the ageing of Larry Cole and D. D. Lewis. But not Staubach on top of it.

To give you an idea of the depth of Dallas's problems, however, coach Landry sounds as if Staubach's absence is one of the least of his worries.

"Defense is where we must improve. I think the offense will gain confidence in Danny White, though I think it will take time. Even with the retirement of Staubach, we have replacements who will become very good players. On defense this is not true at this point, and that's why I'm going to concentrate on defense through training camp."

Landry is so worried about linebackers and his deep backs and John Dutton that he barely has time to think of life without Staubach. At least he has a body lined up to play Staubach's position. The job is Danny White's

1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Septien, 97 points on 19 field goals and 40 PAT's... 3rd
RUSHING—Dorsett, 250 carries for 1107 yards, 4.4 avg., 6 TD's... 8th
PASSING—Staubach, 267 of 461 attempts for 3586 yards, 27 TD's... 1st
RECEIVING—Hill, 60 receptions for 1062 yards, 17.7 avg., 10 TD's... 6th
INTERCEPTIONS—Hughes, 2 for 91 yards, 45.5 avg., 45th
PUNTING—White, 76 punts, 41.7 avg., longest 73 yards... 2nd
PUNT RETURNS—Wilson, 35 for 236 yards, 6.7 avg., 7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Springs, 38 for 780 yards, 20.5 avg., 12th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 9 GREEN BAY (N)
16 At Los Angeles (N)
23 HOUSTON (N)
30 PITTSBURGH (N)

1980 SCHEDULE 1979 SCORES

September	8 At Washington (N)	20-34
	14 At Denver	—
	21 TAMPA BAY	—
	28 At Green Bay	—
October	5 NY GIANTS	28-7
	12 SAN FRANCISCO	21-13
	19 At Philadelphia	24-17
	26 SAN DIEGO (N)	—
November	2 At St. Louis	22-21
	9 At NY Giants	16-14
	16 ST. LOUIS	22-13
	23 WASHINGTON	35-34
	27 SEATTLE	—
December	7 At Oakland	—
	15 At Los Angeles (N)	30-6
	21 PHILADELPHIA	21-31



until he loses it. If he does, there are people in the cowboy organization who think Glenn Carano could be better. Aha! Another Staubach-Craig Morton scenario?

"It's difficult to predict how the offense will be different with Danny. It will look the same the way it unfolds. But I think in the passing area it will take on the characteristics of Danny White," said Landry. "My feeling is that Danny will use his backs a lot more than Roger did in his passing game. And if so, you'll see a more versatile passing attack."

Of course, the plays will still come from Landry.

Quarterback is not the only change expected on offense. At fullback, where Robert Newhouse sat out most of last season after fracturing his leg in the opener, Landry hopes second-year man Ron Springs can start.

"We need a little better blocking out of our running backs, especially out of our fullback position," said Landry. "We feel Ron Springs possibly could play fullback next to Tony Dorsett, and we will experiment with him at fullback in training camp."

Dorsett, who kept last season's string of Cowboy bad luck intact by dropping a mirror on his toe before the opener, will get the ball more often in a Staubachless attack. If, that is, he is in shape to do it.

"He wants to carry the ball more and to do that he's going to have to be in top condition," said Landry.

Ageless Preston Pearson was a free agent after last season and sent out resumes all over the league. But Landry expects him to be swinging out of the backfield on third down again despite his 35 years. Scott Laidlaw and Larry Brinson are the depth at running back.

White retains the great wide receivers who helped make Staubach look good. Deep threat Tony Hill and pattern man Drew Pearson each surpassed 1,000 yards in receptions last year. With Dorsett also running for 1,000 yards, it marked the first time an NFL team had a runner and two receivers over the magic figure. Depth is the only question mark at this position, since Butch Johnson expressed a desire to follow the exodus and Steve Wilson, released before the 1979 season, is the only experienced backup.

"Wide receiver is going to be an area where we're maybe not going to carry as many as we did last year, since we have to get a punter to replace Danny White," said

Scott Laidlaw follows John Fitzgerald.



WR Drew Pearson (top) and DE Harvey Martin of the Dallas Cowboys

Landry.

Tight end Jay Saldi can play wide receiver and may have more freedom to do it after the promising rookie season of Doug Cosbie. The bigger (6-6, 230) Cosbie can back up admirably for starter Billie Joe DuPree. Landry had the tight ends shuttling plays most of the season, but would prefer that the offensive linemen do it so that the "skill" people can develop continuity in their timing.

Shuttling offensive linemen, however, could get out of hand. Landry sent perennial All-Pro Rayfield Wright packing because of the need to infuse younger talent. The coach is not absolutely certain, however, who will assume Wright's right tackle spot. Jim Cooper will open there, but Richard Grimmett and Andy Frederick could challenge. The rest of the line is solid with Pro Bowlers Herb Scott at left guard and Pat Donovan at left tackle, John Fitzgerald at center, and Tom Rafferty at right guard. Burton Lawless provides experienced depth at guard, but last year's No. 1 draft choice, Robert Shaw, was a disappointment.

"This summer will determine what he's going to do in pro football," said Landry.

At least they had a No. 1 choice. In the 1980 draft, the Cowboys were idle until the third round. The man who cost them their No. 1 and No. 2, defensive end John Dutton, remains as much of a question mark as a rookie. The former All-Pro never regained his form after joining the club during last season. Landry has hope, of course. "I think John will come back and play very well at the left end position with a training camp and a year's experience in our system behind him," said Landry. If he doesn't, the 1978 No. 1 draft choice, Larry Bethea, does not offer much hope after last year's showing.

The left tackle will be Larry Cole, 32 by mid season, "the miracle of the defensive line,"

according to Landry. David Stalls and Bruce Thornton will provide competition. On the right side, few teams are better off. "We expect Randy White at right tackle and Harvey Martin at right end to play up to their usual standards," said Landry. It is imperative if the Cowboys are to challenge at all.

Landry is baffled by his strong-side linebacking spot. While calling Bob Bruenig solid and D.D. Lewis consistent (age 35) on the right, Landry calls left linebacker "a basic problem." Thomas Henderson was fired from the position. Mike Hegman performed "not at the level you need in order to have a good linebacker corps." Gus Brown "could very easily be a starting linebacker. He's just never been able to meet the challenge." "Bruce Huther I don't believe is capable of playing on the outside." That leaves third-round draft choice (No. 1 for the Cowboys) Bill Roe of Colorado, a virtual unknown to many pro scouts.

Landry also is "very much concerned"

COWBOYS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
31	Barnes, Benny	CB	6-1	195	29	9	Stanford
76	Bethea, Larry	DT	6-5	254	24	3	Michigan St.
53	Breunig, Bob	LB	6-2	225	27	6	Arizona St.
36	Brinson, Larry	FB	6-0	214	26	4	Florida
59	Brown, Guy	LB	6-4	228	25	4	Houston
18	Carano, Glenn	QB	6-3	202	24	4	Las Vegas
63	Cole, Larry	DT	6-5	252	32	13	Hawaii
61	Cooper, Jim	C-T	6-5	260	25	4	Temple
84	Cosbie, Doug	TE	6-6	230	24	2	Santa Clara
67	Donovan, Pat	T	6-4	250	27	6	Stanford
33	Dorsett, Tony	RB	5-11	190	26	4	Pittsburgh
89	DuPree, B.J.	TE	6-4	229	30	8	Michigan St.
78	Dutton, John	DE	6-7	265	29	7	Nebraska
62	Fitzgerald, John	C	6-5	260	32	10	Boston Coll.
71	Frederick, Andy	T	6-6	255	26	4	New Mexico
58	Hegman, Mike	LB	6-1	225	27	5	Tenn. St.
80	Hill, Tony	WR	6-2	198	24	4	Stanford
42	Hughes, Randy	S	6-4	207	27	6	Oklahoma
57	Huther, Bruce	LB	6-1	220	26	4	N. Hampshire
86	Johnson, Butch	WR	6-1	192	26	5	Riverside
25	Kyle, Aaron	CB	5-11	185	26	5	Wyoming
35	Laidlaw, Scott	FB	6-0	205	27	6	Stanford
66	Lawless, Burton	G	6-4	255	27	6	Florida
50	Lewis, D.D.	LB	6-1	215	35	12	Miss. St.
22	Manning, Wade	DB	5-11	190	25	2	Ohio St.
79	Martin, Harvey	DE	6-5	250	30	8	E. Texas St.
34	Mitchell, Aaron	CB	6-1	196	24	2	Las Vegas
44	Newhouse, Robert	FB	5-10	215	30	9	Houston
88	Pearson, Drew	WR	6-0	183	29	8	Tulsa
26	Pearson, Preston	RB	6-1	206	35	14	Illinois
64	Rafferty, Tom	G	6-3	250	26	5	Penn. St.
87	Saldi, Jay	TE	6-3	227	26	5	S. Carolina
68	Scott, Herbert	G	6-2	252	27	6	Va. Union
1	Seplien, Rafael	K	5-9	171	27	4	SW Louisiana
52	Shaw, Robert	C-G	6-4	245	24	2	Tennessee
20	Springs, Ron	RB	6-1	200	24	2	Ohio St.
65	Stalls, Dave	DT	6-4	245	25	4	N. Colorado
77	Thornton, Bruce	DE-DT	6-5	265	22	2	Illinois
32	Thurman, Dennis	CB	5-11	170	24	3	USC
41	Waters, Charlie	S	6-2	200	32	10	Clemson
11	White, Danny	QB-P	6-2	192	28	5	Arizona St.
54	White, Randy	DT	6-4	250	27	6	Maryland
81	Wilson, Steve	WR	5-10	192	23	2	Howard

DRAFTTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
3	Roe, Bill	LB	6-3	220	22	Colorado
3	Jones, James	RB	5-10	200	22	Miss. St.
4	Petersen, Kurt	DL	6-5	255	23	Missouri
5	Hogboom, Gary	QB	6-4	195	22	Cent. Michigan
6	Newsome, Tim	FB	6-1	228	22	Win-Salem
7	Brown, Lester	DB	5-11	176	23	Clemson
8	Savage, Larry	LB	6-2	213	23	Mich. St.
9	Flowers, Jackie	WR	6-0	194	22	Fla. St.
10	Teague, Matt	DE	6-4	238	22	Prairie View
11	Padjen, Gary	LB	6-1	238	22	Ariz. St.
12	Wells, Norm	DT	6-5	249	21	N. Western

about the physical status of cornerbacks Benny Barnes and Aaron Kyle. Barnes had a foot operation in the off-season and Kyle was bothered by knee trouble. Backups are Aaron Mitchell and former baseball player Wade Manning.

Another concern is whether Charlie Waters can return to strong safety from the knee injury that shelved him all of last season. If he does, his replacement last year, Randy Hughes, will take over for retired Cliff Harris, a possibility that had been mentioned before Harris's retirement and may have prodded it. If Waters fails to come back, Landry talks of putting Barnes at strong safety or Dennis Thurman at free and Hughes at strong.

Landry's worry over his defense was reflected in the rash of big plays given up throughout last season—from the 193-yard running debut of St. Louis's Ottis Anderson to the Billy Waddy touchdown catch that helped the Rams get to the Super Bowl. If Landry's pass rush cannot do something to prevent them, it is not fair to expect his linebackers and secondary to hold fast. Last year, the Cowboys were last in the league in interceptions. The possibility of the return of boxer Ed Jones exists. Too bad he's too tall to play linebacker.

Danny White will punt until relieved by a new body. Rafael Septien improved considerably as a field-goal kicker. But Cowboy special teams have slipped, too, a sure sign of decline. They were 21st in the league in both punt- and kickoff-return average.

Moreover, they were 27th stopping kickoff returns, last in stopping punt returns. Tackling kick returners is no more than desire.

If the Cowboys are better than third, Landry should go directly to the Hall of Fame.

"I can only see Philadelphia getting better. The Redskins surprised everybody last year. The Cardinals have always been a problem for us. And New York's on the way up, too," said Landry.

Somebody has to be on the way down.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS Jim Hanifan is the only new head coach in the NFC and he isn't really new to the St. Louis Cardinals at all. His career as an assistant to Don Coryell from 1973-1977 coincided with the emergence of quarterback Jim Hart and tackle Dan Dierdorf into All-Pro performers.

Hanifan coached the offensive line for a year under Bud Wilkinson before rejoining Coryell in San Diego in 1979, so he is intimately familiar with the personnel and practices of the current Cardinals. Except for one, Hanifan has seen phenomenal running back Ottis (O.J.) Anderson only in film.

Not that Hanifan minds the intrusion of a new body. Anderson should make Hanifan's job much easier. But O.J. still provides a dilemma: how does Hanifan divide the football between the arm of Hart and the belly of Anderson?

Hanifan is a passing coach like his mentor, Coryell. He is a Hart man, so it is safe to assume that owner Bill Bidwill did not write

the name of reserve quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz into Hanifan's contract. Bidwill's insistence on using Pisarkiewicz was the flaw that broke Wilkinson's back.

"Jim Hart is one of the best quarterbacks in the league and you can bet we're going to take advantage of that," said Hanifan. Even at age 36, Hart should be able to do more than hand off to Anderson. "On the other hand, with a back like Ottis Anderson, you'd be foolish not to run," said Hanifan.

Of course, stopping the ball will be of bigger concern to Hanifan than moving it. This has been true since Coryell took over. The Cardinals always have been a "no stopping them" team. You can't stop the Cardinals and the Cardinals can't stop anyone else.

Defensive coordinator Tom Bettis is trying to put a stop to this. His 3-4 defense has helped move the Cards from woeful to average. Last year the defenders finished about in the middle of the league in everything despite a very tough schedule.


This year, Bettis finally convinced his bosses to draft a defensive player first. After taking Pisarkiewicz and kicker Steve Little and Anderson in the last three drafts, the Cardinals went for a defensive end, Michigan's Curtis Greer, on the first round. Rules are favoring offenses more and more, which only puts an even greater premium on top defensive players.

The problem with the Cardinals is that they no longer have time to gradually improve their defense. They have to produce now, because

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St. Louis running back Ottis Anderson had a spectacular rookie season in 1979.

the age of many key offensive weapons—Hart and Mel Gray and Bob Young—is bound soon to erode their talents to the point that Anderson will be their only weapon. True, that is not a bad rebuilding block, but no runner can do it alone. Ask O.J. Simpson. Ask Walter Payton.

Hart is coming off his worst year in 1979, so Hanifan's confidence may not be enough to rejuvenate him. He was the only NFC passer to average fewer than six yards per pass completion and he had the conference's worst ratio of touchdowns (9) to interceptions (20.)

Although the Cardinals were 2-1 in the three games Pisarkiewicz started for interim coach Larry Wilson (and quarterback coach Bidwill),

Pisarkiewicz left the Cardinals plenty to ponder with an embarrassing 5 of 28 for 65 yards and two interceptions in a 42-6 loss to Chicago.

The Cardinals finished twentieth in the league in passing, once their forte. Not all of the reasons for this were bad, however. One was Ottis Anderson, whose amazing running talent brought the team from 25th in rushing to third.

"In one season, Anderson came to be regarded as the best running back in the history of the St. Louis Football Cardinals," proclaims the Cardinal press guide. Charlie Trippi, Ollie Matson, and John David Crow, please note.

There are few detractors among anyone who saw him. Although he wanted to go home early after he saw snow for the first time in the season finale in Chicago (and lost the NFC rushing title to Payton with a miserable 39-yard day), Anderson became the first rookie to average more than 100 yards a game and the first to surpass the 1,000-yard mark in nine games. Anderson's ability to break a simple sweep play upfield astounded rival coaches all season, causing them to spend overtime at their film projectors. More than one said he had never seen anything to compare, Simpson notwithstanding.

Anderson's prowess relegated a good back, Wayne Morris, to blocking and receiving roles, and second-year man Theotis Brown will battle Morris for the starting fullback spot this year. Willard Harrell, Rod Phillips, and Thomas Lott are reserves who perform well on special teams.

Another reason for the Cardinal dropoff in passing was the dropoff in receiving, particularly of veteran Mel Gray, soon to be 32 in his tenth pro season. Hampered by leg injuries, he caught only 25 passes.

"I may have slowed from a 4.4 to a 4.5, but that still puts me ahead of most defensive backs," says Gray. If he cannot stay there, the Cardinals do not have the speed to replace him. Willy Pat Tilley led the team in receiving for the second year in a row. He has great hands and

moves. Dave Stief is also a good athlete at wide receiver who had to play some tight end.

The draft, St. Louis hopes, solved the tight end problem created by the death of J.V. Cain in last year's training camp. The Cardinals passed up Junior Miller for a shot at Curtis Greer, but won their gamble when Greer's Michigan teammate Doug Marsh was available in the second round. Marsh's scouting grades improved right up until draft time to the point that some observers slated him for the first round. If he demonstrates any potential, he will step right in. Pick-up players Gary Parris and Bill Murrell are the only competition.

The return of co-captain Dierdorf from knee surgery should automatically return the Cardinals' offensive line to its nonpareil status.



St. Louis quarterback Jim Hart



Cardinals' cornerback Roger Wehrli



St. Louis offensive guard Bob Young

1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Anderson, 60 points on 10 TD's... 17th
RUSHING—Anderson, 331 carries for 1605 yards, 4.8 avg., 8 TD's... 2nd
PASSING—Hart, 194 of 378 attempts for 2218 yards, 9 TD's... 12th
RECEIVING—Tilley, 57 receptions for 938 yards, 16.5 avg., 6 TD's... 9th
INTERCEPTIONS—Stone, 6 for 70 yards, 11.7 avg., 5th
PUNTING—Little, 79 punts, 38.7 avg., longest 63 yards... 11th
PUNT RETURNS—Harrell, 32 for 205 yards, 6.4 avg., 8th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Green, 41 for 1005 yards, 24.5 avg., 1 TD... 2nd

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 9 At New Orleans (N)
16 At Tampa Bay (N)
23 KANSAS CITY (N)
30 At Chicago (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

September	7 NY GIANTS	29-20
	14 At San Francisco	13-10
	21 At Detroit	—
	28 PHILADELPHIA	20-24
October	5 At New Orleans	—
	12 LOS ANGELES	0-21
	19 At Washington	28-30
	26 At Baltimore	—
November	2 DALLAS	21-22
	9 ATLANTA	—
	16 At Dallas	13-22
	23 KANSAS CITY	—
	30 At NY Giants	27-14
December	7 DETROIT	—
	14 At Philadelphia	13-16
	21 WASHINGTON	7-17

Guard Bob Young is 37, but coming off another All-Pro year. Center Tom Banks, 32, narrowly missed his fifth straight Pro Bowl. Left tackle Keith Wortman, also hampered by injury, was called the steady member of the line last year and the next Pro Bowl prospect. Joe Bostic filled in admirably for Dierdorf. He started his first game as a rookie against Pittsburgh and did not allow a sack. Right guard Terry Stieve was voted by his teammates the club's most improved player. With a stronger George Collins at guard and outstanding long snapper Tom Brahaney at center, Anderson will again have holes to run through and Hart will have protection.

Controlling the ball always has been the key to St. Louis success, because when the other team gets it, watch out. Greer is expected to step in at right end and provide the No. 1 ingredient of any successful defense, a pass rush. The Cardinals were 26th in the league in sacks last year. Mike Dawson was the right end because of injury to aging John Zook. Dawson did well, but was drafted No. 1 in 1976 as a nose guard. That is where Dawson will return to this season, but he will have to battle Charlie Davis, who led the linemen in tackles last year. Bob Pollard, 32, is solid at left end. He led the team with nine sacks, impressive for a left end. Most quarterback pressure should come from the right, where the rushers don't have to face tight ends as much.

Bettis calls his linebacking crew the deepest he has had, because injuries to three of his four starters forced experience on youngsters. Tim Kearney, the team's top tackler, had knee surgery after the fifth game. Mark Arneson missed five games at outside linebacker. Steve Neils missed seven games with a broken leg. Only Eric Williams went the distance and "he needs to improve his consistency." The injuries gave Kurt Allerman, John Barefield, and Calvin Favron playing time, and the special teams play of Sean Clancy and Chris Garlich gives Bettis nine linebackers from which to choose.

Bettis is excited by the acquisition of cornerback Tim Collier from his old Kansas City Chiefs club. The five-year veteran will contend with four-year man Carl Allen, who started last season. At the other corner is Roger Wehrli who made his seventh Pro Bowl team in 11 years and still confounds the best and fastest receivers in the game. Ken Stone led the team in interceptions with six from his free safety spot while Ken Greene led the team in tackles at strong safety.

The inside spots are especially strong with the presence of Roy Green, who enters his second season. Green was the squad's special-team player of the year last season after finishing second in the NFC in kickoff returns. His 106-yarder tied a league record. Harrell helps give the Cardinals one of the league's best kickoff-return tandems.

This special-teams' advantage is offset, however, by the poor kickoff coverage. The Cards finished last in covering kickoffs, even though Steve Little improved both his distance and consistency on kickoffs. Little is the only kicking specialist in the game asked to do everything: kickoff, place-kick, and punt. He has yet to prove he should do it. His 24 of 32 extra points made him 27th in the league in that category and he was 10 of 19 in field goals, only three for ten between 40 and 49 yards. His punt-

ing was 23d in the league, with a 38.2 average.

"Steve did all the kicking in college and we think there is no reason why he can't do it now," said special teams coach Chuck Banker. "The mental aspect for a kicker is so important and it is this mental toughness that we will stress."

Hanifan, 46, noted that the Cardinals lost five games by four points or fewer.

"The Cardinals created a great feeling of excitement in the mid-seventies by being able to move the ball and generate points in a hurry late in a game," he said. "This year, we think we can do that throughout the entire game. And it will be just as much fun."

The enthusiasm of new coaches endures.

CARDINALS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
27	Allen, C.	CB	6-0	186	25	4	S. Miss.
50	Allerman, K.	LB	6-3	222	25	4	Penn St.
32	Anderson, O.	RB	6-2	210	23	2	Miami
57	Arneson, M.	LB	6-2	224	31	9	Arizona
54	Banks, T.	C	6-2	245	32	9	Auburn
58	Barefield, J.	LB	6-2	224	25	3	Texas A&I
81	Bell, M.	WR	5-9	175	23	2	Colorado St.
71	Bostic, J.	T	6-2	265	23	2	Clemson
51	Brahaney, T.	C	6-2	246	29	8	Oklahoma
61	Brown, C.	C-G	6-1	235	23	2	Houston
33	Brown, T.	RB	6-2	225	23	2	UCLA
86	Childs, J.	WR	6-2	194	24	3	Cal Poly-SLO
52	Clancy, S.	LB	6-4	218	24	3	Amherst
44	Collier, T.	CB	6-0	174	26	5	E. Texas St.
66	Collins, G.	G	6-2	248	25	3	Georgia
76	Davis, C.	NT	6-2	275	29	6	T.C.U.
73	Dawson, M.	DE	6-4	275	27	5	Arizona
72	Dierdorf, D.	T	6-3	288	31	10	Michigan
59	Favron, C.	LB	6-1	225	23	2	S.E. La. St.
85	Gray, M.	WR	5-9	173	32	10	Missouri
25	Green, R.	DB	5-11	190	23	2	Henderson
37	Greene, K.	S	6-3	203	24	3	Wash. St.
39	Harrell, W.	RB	5-8	182	28	6	Pacific
17	Hart, J.	QB	6-1	210	36	15	S. Illinois
48	Henry, S.	DB	6-2	190	23	2	Emporia St.
56	Kearney, T.	LB	6-2	221	30	9	N. Michigan
46	Lee, J.	WR	6-2	185	25	2	Nebraska
12	Little, S.	P-K	6-0	180	24	3	Arkansas
26	Lott, T.	RB	5-10	205	23	2	Oklahoma
44	Love, R.	RB	6-1	205	24	2	Houston
14	Loyd, M.	QB	6-2	216	24	2	Mo. South
24	Morris, W.	RB	6-0	208	26	5	SMU
80	Murrell, B.	TE	6-3	220	24	2	Win-Sal.
53	Neils, S.	LB	6-2	218	29	7	Minnesota
38	Nelson, L.	CB	5-10	185	25	5	Florida St.
65	Oates, B.	T	6-6	275	27	5	BYU
89	Parris, G.	TE	6-2	226	30	8	Florida St.
36	Phillips, R.	RB	6-0	221	28	6	Jackson St.
15	Pisarkiewicz, S.	DB	6-2	205	27	4	Missouri
82	Pollard, B.	DE	6-3	252	32	10	Weber St.
79	Ramey, J.	DE	6-4	247	23	2	Kentucky
70	Simons, K.	DT	6-3	254	26	5	Minnesota
84	Stief, D.	WR	6-3	195	24	3	Portland St.
68	Stieve, T.	G	6-2	263	26	5	Wisconsin
23	Stone, K.	S	6-1	180	30	8	Vanderbilt
83	Tilley, P.	WR	5-10	171	27	5	La. Tech.
22	Wehrli, R.	CB	6-0	194	33	12	Missouri
55	Williams, E.	LB	6-2	225	25	4	USC
62	Wortman, K.	T	6-2	275	30	9	Nebraska
78	Yankowski, R.	DE	6-5	258	24	10	Kansas St.
64	Young, B.	G	6-1	279	38	15	Howard Payne
63	Zook, J.	DE	6-5	254	33	12	Kansas

DRAFTTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Greer, Curtis	DE	6-4	252	23	Michigan
2	Marsh, Doug	TE	6-3	236	22	Michigan
3	Sinnett, John	OT	6-4	279	22	Brown
3	Baker, Charles	LB	6-2	217	33	New Mexico
4	Lisch, Rusty	QB	6-3	214	24	Notre Dame
6	Acker, Bill	DT	6-2	255	24	Texas
7	Apuna, Ben	LB	6-1	222	23	Arizona St.
8	Branch, Dupree	DB	6-0	195	23	Col. St.
8	Hudson, Grant	DT	6-4	277	22	Virginia
9	Mays, Stafford	DT	6-2	242	22	Washington
10	Brown, Rush	DT	6-2	257	26	Bail St.
11	Brown, Delrick	DB	5-10	176	23	Houston
12	Gray, Tyrone	WR	6-1	200	23	Wash. St.

NEW YORK GIANTS There is only one thing for a team like the New York Giants to do: shut up and draft. The future may be brighter under general manager George Young and coach Ray Perkins, but the present seems as dismal as the immediate past.

The 6-10 record compiled in Perkins's first season was no better than the 6-10 that got John McVay fired in 1978. The Perkins Giants gave up more points and scored fewer than the McVay Giants. The "new" Giants finished 28th in offense, showing similar ineptitude in running (22nd) and passing (27th). They were 28th in first downs, 28th in average gain per play, 24th in interceptions, 27th in sacks allowed. Indeed, the offensive genius of Ray Perkins is sorely needed.

There seems to be a glimmer of hope, however, if only in the mind. At least the weary Giant fans see a promising young quarterback in the huddle. For what it's worth, Phil Simms had a higher ranking than Dan Pastorini, Jim Hart, and Doug Williams last year. Two of those quarterbacks made the play-offs.

It figured that Simms would get help in the 1980 draft. But the Giants turned to defense, noticing that the tacklers weren't much better than the blockers last year. They were 22nd in stopping the rush, 17th in stopping the pass, 22nd in giving up first downs, 20th in sacking the quarterback.

On offense, there is the chance of improvement from within. On defense, there was need of immediate help from elsewhere. So the Giants drafted Colorado cornerback Mark Haynes and USC defensive tackle Myron Lapka on the first two rounds. Three of their next five picks were defensive players.

It won't be enough this year. It is only another building block. Not only do the Giants have one of the worst teams in the NFC, they have the most difficult schedule in the NFC, which adds

Wide receiver Earnest Gray fights for extra yardage for New York Giants.





The Giants' hopes for better days rest with quarterback Phil Simms (above). Running back Billy Taylor (right) rushed for 700 yards and seven touchdowns. Mark Haynes (below), cornerback, was No. 1 draft pick.



up to a depressing forecast for what was once the flagship team of the NFL.

There is reason to stick around for a while, even if the Giants finish fifth in the competitive East Division. Patience is something neither the Giant faithful nor the intense Perkins seem to have in abundance, but patience is what Phil Simms will require. Simms would have preferred a speedy wide receiver to complement another second-year man, Earnest Gray. But unless fourth-round draft choice Dan Pittman surprises the critics, Simms will have to rely on patience.

Simms, who raised eyebrows in the 1979 draft, justified the confidence of Perkins and Young by winning his first four starts after taking over an 0-5 club. He ended up throwing almost as many touchdown passes (13) as interceptions (14). Throwing more touchdown passes than interceptions is a significant statistic that only four starting NFC quarterbacks were able to attain: Roger Staubach, Joe Theismann, Ron Jaworski, and Mike Phipps.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Phil will be an outstanding quarterback for many years," Perkins said. "Even as a rookie, he was doing things that surprised me, and I have worked with Dan Fouts and Steve Grogan." The commitment to Simms was complete with the off-

season trade of former starter Joe Pisarcik to Philadelphia, leaving only untested Randy Dean, young Dave Rader, and sixth-round draftee Scott Brunner in reserve.

The Giants need more firepower to complement Simms. Last year's leading receiver was 6-1, 220-pound tight end Gary Shirk. Not only did Shirk make the most catches with 31, he made the longest catch of the season, 61 yards. Shirk is supposed to be too small to play tight end and Perkins has hopes that Cleveland, Jackson, a second-year man who was injured as a rookie, can provide some competition.

Although Gray averaged 19.2 yards a catch for his 28 receptions, he failed to demonstrate the speed that Perkins would like to see at receiver. If Pittman can't provide it, it appears the Giants will go again with Johnny Perkins, who caught 20 passes, four for touchdowns last season while sharing the job with Jimmy Robinson. Robinson was traded to San Francisco. Dwight Scales is the only veteran backup at wide receiver, although kick returner Steve Odom has played there.

Improvement is expected from the young running backs. Perkins took third-year halfback Billy Taylor off the bench last season and he responded with 700 yards in 198 carries. Taylor had a 148-yard game against the No. 1 defense in football, Tampa Bay. Now 148 yards might not sound so stunning to people in Chicago or Houston or St. Louis, where such an afternoon is commonplace, but in New York Giant country it was the biggest day for a running back since Ernie Koy gained 160 yards against Washington in 1967.

The 700 yards on the season was the most since Doug Kotar gained 731 in 1976. Kotar ran almost as much as Taylor last season, compiling 616 yards, and the two of them give Perkins quality at halfback.

Perkins liked rookie Ken Johnson at fullback and Johnson averaged only 2.7 yards a carry in 62 rushes. "My fullback has to be a great blocker first," Perkins said. The answer may be Mike Hogan, a fifth-year man who had two

1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Taylor, 66 points on 11 TD's... 15th
RUSHING—Taylor, 198 carries for 700 yards, 3.5 avg., 7 TD's... 12th
PASSING—Simms, 134 of 265 attempts for 1743 yards, 13 TD's... 10th
RECEIVING—Shirk, 31 receptions for 471 yards, 15.2 avg., 2 TD's... 36th
INTERCEPTIONS—Kelley, 3 for 41 yards, 13.6 avg., 31st
PUNTING—Jennings, 104 punts, 42.7 avg., longest 72 yards... 1st
PUNT RETURNS—Odom, 24 for 106 yards, 4.4 avg., 14th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Odom, 44 for 949 yards, 21.6 avg., 10th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 9 PITTSBURGH (N)
16 DENVER (N)
22 At Baltimore (N)
30 NY JETS (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

1980 SCHEDULE	1979 SCORES
September 7 At St. Louis	20-29
14 WASHINGTON	14-6
22 At Philadelphia	17-23
28 LOS ANGELES	20-14
October 5 At Dallas	7-28
12 PHILADELPHIA	13-17
19 At San Diego	—
26 DENVER	—
November 2 At Tampa Bay	3-31
9 DALLAS	14-16
16 GREEN BAY	—
23 At San Francisco	32-16
30 ST. LOUIS	14-27
December 7 At Seattle	—
13 At Washington	0-27
21 OAKLAND	—

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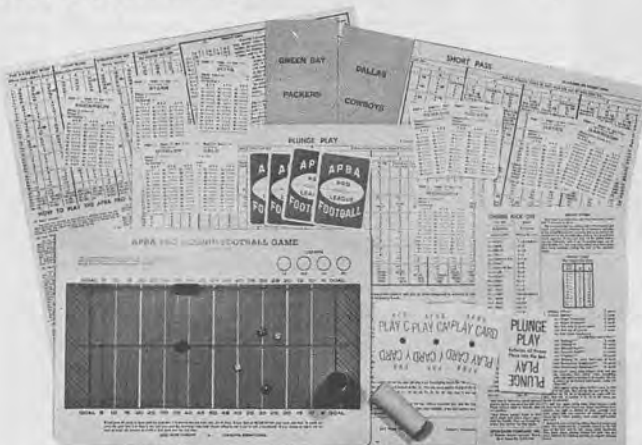
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NFC East years of 500 yards and one 600-yard season with the Eagles before playing last season in San Francisco. Hogan came in the trade involving Jimmy Robinson.

Although there are question marks and age on the offensive line, Perkins drafted no immediate help and expects to get through another year with 14-year guard Doug Van Horn and 10-year center Jim Clack. J.T. Turner is a solid four-year guard, and third-year tackle Brad Benson came into his own late in the season. Tom Neville, the man who finished the season at right tackle, retired, leaving the spot for Gordon King, the No. 1 draft choice in 1978 who is still waiting to fulfill his potential. Big Ron Mikolajczyk or young Gus Coppens could make King wait another year. Two other youngsters, Roy Simmons and Keith Eck, provide depth at

guard and center.

This is virtually the same offense that managed to outscore only the Detroit Lions last season. The only hope is that the players got bigger, stronger, or faster over the winter in the weight rooms.

On defense, Perkins has more proven players and he added to them in the draft. Although he might have preferred an offensive weapon with his first choice, speedsters such as Lam Jones and Curtis Dickey were taken, so the Giants wisely snatched the No. 1 cornerback in a banner year for defensive backs.

In Colorado's Haynes, Perkins has an instant starter, maybe two. The Giants had traded incumbent corner Ray Rhodes to San Francisco with Robinson for free safety Tony Dungy, who could solve another sore spot. Haynes will play opposite third-year man Terry Jackson and give the Giants youth and talent at a vital position in the age of the forward pass. Alan Caldwell is another young prospect who backed up both sides a year ago.

If Dungy can come through where injured Ernie Jones and subs Ray Oldham and Odis McKinney could not, the deep middle will be less vulnerable. Strong safety Beasley Reece led the secondary in tackles and led the team in playing time. Oldham is an eight-year veteran who can back up capably either safety.

Perkins went to a 3-4 defense to take advantage of the strength of his club, the linebackers. Inside backer Harry Carson, the club leader in tackles, and outside man Brad Van Pelt both were voted to the Pro Bowl for the second year, a significant honor bestowed by league peers considering the Giant defense finished 19th.

Brian Kelly was outstanding, and Perkins thought so much of Danny Lloyd that he switched to the 3-4 just to get him into the game. However, Lloyd suffered a serious knee injury that caused the Giants to revert to the 4-3 by season's end. The possibility of continuing with the conventional alignment heightened when the Giants made USC tackle Lapka their second draft choice and when it was learned that Lloyd had cancer. With Lapka and the rapid development of last year's draftee Phil Tabor of Oklahoma, veteran John Mendenhall was given his release.

Gary Jeter, the 1977 No. 1 draft choice, finally broke into the starting lineup at end and played sporadically. The other end, six-year vet George Martin, led the team in sacks with 11. Second-year players Calvin Miller and Jeff Weston will get hard looks on this front, because Perkins must do something to increase his sacks (20th in the league) and avoid the collapse that occurred last season. After leading the way back from the 0-5 start to a 6-7 mark, the defense allowed 88 points in the final three losses to Dallas, St. Louis, and Baltimore.

Perhaps the Giants' most valuable defensive weapon is punter Dave Jennings, a performer with no peer in the NFC. A third Giant Pro Bowler, Jennings broke club records with 104 kicks for 4,445 yards and finished second in the league in gross and net punting average. He also completed two of two passes. But most impressive of all, he has not had a punt blocked since 1976.

Unfortunately, Jennings has little help on special teams. His place-kicking counterpart, Joe Danelo, finished last in the league in field goal percentage, hitting only 9 of 20. But

Danelo has had better years and it is indicative of the new-found stability of the Giants that they did not fire him at mid season.

Despite Jennings's fine punting, the Giant tacklers were seventeenth in stopping punt returns. The returners finished dead last. Odom is the only one invited back. He also returns kick-offs, but the Giants were 24th in that category.

Another example of Perkins's statistical woes is the fact that the Giants were last in penalty-yard edge, something that is difficult to blame entirely on the officials.

The reason the Giants are still struggling entering the eighties is simple. Their drafts in the seventies were disastrous. One glance at the Rocky Thompsons and Eldridge Smalls and John Hickses put more pressure than ever on the Gary Jeters, Gordon Kings, Phil Simmses, and Mark Hayneses.

GIANTS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
60	Benson, B.	T	6-3	258	24	3	Penn St.
45	Caldwell, A.	CB	6-0	176	24	2	No. Carolina
53	Carson, H.	LB	6-2	235	27	5	S. C. St.
56	Clack, J.	C	6-3	250	33	10	Wake Forest
59	Coffield, R.	LB	6-3	215	27	5	Florida St.
78	Coppens, G.	T	6-5	270	25	2	UCLA
18	Danelo, J.	K	5-9	166	27	6	Wash. St.
15	Dean, R.	QB	6-3	194	25	4	Northwestern
	Dungy, T.	S	6-0	190	25	4	Minnesota
58	Eck, K.	C	6-5	255	25	2	UCLA
	Falcon, T.	G	6-3	260	25	2	Montana
41	Franklin, G.	RB	6-3	225	26	3	Texas A&I
83	Gray, E.	WR	6-3	195	23	2	Memphis St.
29	Hicks, E.	RB	6-2	210	25	2	E. Carolina
	Hogan, M.	FB	6-2	215	26	5	Chattanooga
81	Jackson, C.	TE	6-4	230	24	2	Las Vegas
24	Jackson, T.	CB	5-10	197	25	3	San Diego St.
13	Jennings, D.	P	6-4	205	28	7	St. Lawrence
70	Jeter, G.	DE	6-4	260	25	4	USC
48	Johnson, K.	RB	6-2	220	24	2	Miami
31	Jones, E.	S	6-3	180	27	5	Miami
55	Kelley, B.	LB	6-3	222	29	8	Cal. Lutheran
72	King, G.	T	6-6	275	24	3	Stanford
44	Kotar, D.	RB	5-11	205	29	7	Kentucky
51	Marion, F.	LB	6-3	228	29	4	Fla. A&M
75	Martin, G.	DE	6-4	245	27	6	Oregon
76	Miller, C.	DT	6-2	270	27	2	Okl. St.
79	McCoy, M.	DT	6-5	275	32	11	Notre Dame
89	McCreary, L.	TE	6-5	227	27	5	Tenn. St.
	Mullady, T.	TE	6-3	232	23	2	S.W. Mem.
64	Mendenhall, J.	DT	6-1	255	32	9	Grambling
62	Mikolajczyk, R.	T	6-3	275	30	5	Tampa
84	Odom, S.	WR	5-8	175	28	7	Utah
25	Oldham, R.	S	5-11	192	29	8	Mid Tenn.
86	Perkins, J.	WR	6-2	205	27	4	Ab. Christian
17	Rader, D.	QB	6-3	215	23	2	Tulsa
28	Reece, B.	S	6-1	195	26	5	N. Texas St.
88	Scales, D.	WR	6-2	182	27	5	Grambling
87	Shirk, G.	TE	6-1	220	30	5	Morehead S.
11	Simms, P.	QB	6-3	216	25	2	Morehead S.
69	Simmons, R.	G	6-3	264	24	2	Ga. Tech
57	Skorupan, J.	LB	6-3	225	29	8	Penn St.
80	Tabor, P.	DT	6-4	255	24	2	Oklahoma
38	Taylor, B.	RB	6-0	215	24	3	Texas Tech
68	Turner, J. T.	G	6-3	250	27	4	Duke
63	Van Horn, D.	G	6-3	245	36	14	Ohio St.
10	Van Pelt, B.	LB	6-5	235	29	8	Michigan St.
73	Weston, J.	G	6-5	250	24	2	Notre Dame

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Haynes, Mark	DB	5-11	185	22	Colorado
3	Lapka, Myron	DT	6-4	255	22	USC
4	Pittman, Dan	WR	6-2	205	21	Wyoming
5	Blount, Tony	S	6-1	195	21	Virginia
6	Brunner, Scott	QB	6-5	200	22	Delaware
7	Hebert, Darryl	DB	6-0	190	21	Oklahoma
7	Linnin, Chris	DT	6-4	250	22	Washington
8	Harris, Ken	FB	6-2	237	21	Alabama
9	Wonsley, Otis	RB	5-11	210	22	Alcorn St.
10	Sanford, Joe	OT	6-5	275	22	Washington
11	Bernish, Steve	DE	6-4	255	21	S. Carolina
12	Lanford, Mike	PK	6-1	185	22	Washington



Offensive guard Doug Van Horn



New Giant safety Tony Dungy



Outstanding linebacker Harry Carson



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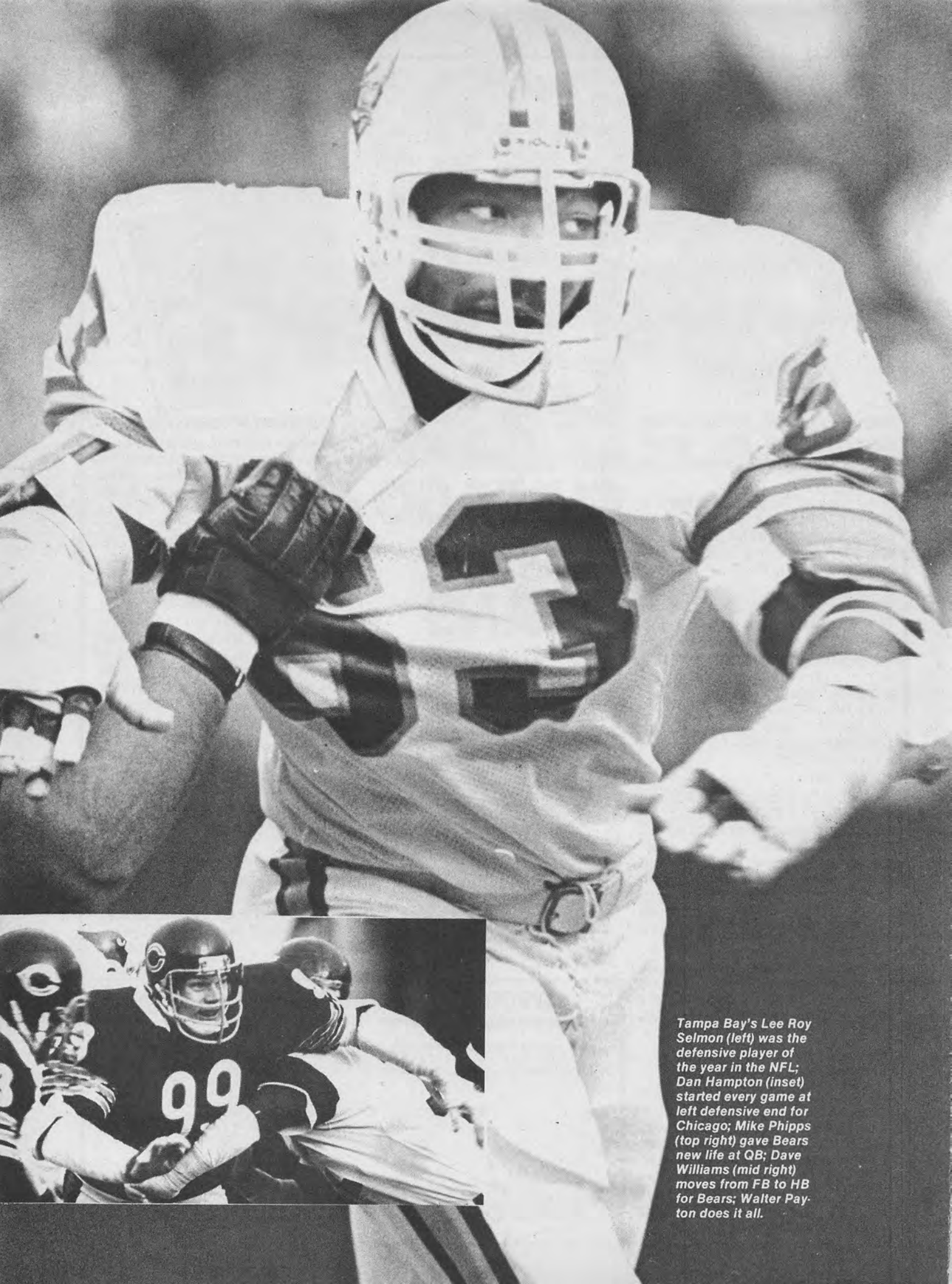
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Tampa Bay's Lee Roy Selmon (left) was the defensive player of the year in the NFL; Dan Hampton (inset) started every game at left defensive end for Chicago; Mike Phipps (top right) gave Bears new life at QB; Dave Williams (mid right) moves from FB to HB for Bears; Walter Payton does it all.

NFC Central

CHICAGO BEARS A year ago, certain experts picked the NFC Central division to finish this way: Detroit, Green Bay, Minnesota, Chicago, Tampa Bay. That is exactly as it turned out—last to first.

The moral is: beware of the parity division. The word tossup has special meaning in the NFC Central. Anyone really could win. The Detroit Lions, for instance, football's worst team in 1979, have the benefit of Billy Sims, a mouth-watering fifth-place schedule, and the convenience of playing in a division with no powerhouse.

For the sake of variety, however, pick Chicago. The Vikings won it for ten years, so it is no fun picking them. The Packers won it in 1972, so it is not time yet for a repeat. The Buccaneers won it last year and the Lions were picked to win it.

So consider the Bears. If they can ever stop starting their seasons with 3-5 records, they have a genuine chance. It is also time for a team employing Walter Payton to make a move, lest Payton become another O.J. Simpson and never reach the big time of championship football.

For three years in a row, the Bears have started their seasons with 3-5 records. Twice, last year and in 1977, they crawled out of their hole to become a wild-card play-off team. But the struggle to get there left no energy to go on. They lost both play-off openers.

The Bears seem ready for bigger things. Payton has help in the form of other No. 1 draft choices. And there finally is some stability at quarterback.

Mike Phipps, an AFC castoff from Cleveland, apparently has found new life in the NFC. Phipps is coming off his best season in ten years as a pro. Coach Neill Armstrong has given him the ball and a vote of confidence, something that rarely happens to Chicago quarterbacks. For the first time in his career, Phipps threw more touchdown passes (nine) than interceptions (eight), a statistic that is not easy to attain. Phipps started the first two games, was replaced by Vince Evans and then Bob Avellini, and started the final eight games. The Bears were 9-1 with Phipps quarterbacking.

The quarterbacks did not call their plays, but the quarterbacks did meet with Bear coaches early in the season and convinced them to do more than hand off to Payton. These 3-5 starts were getting them nowhere.

Starting his fourth year, Evans appeared to have all the ability to be a future starter. A great arm allows him to make spectacular plays and great running ability keeps him out of trouble. A staph infection knocked him out at mid season last year, but if Phipps falters, Evans will be in line ahead of former starter Avellini.

Payton, of course, remains the vital cog no matter who quarterbacks. A truly great back, Payton enters his sixth season. He agrees his career is more than half over. He played last year despite a painful pinched nerve in a shoulder. His class surfaced in the final game of the regular season when he outrushed rookie phenom Otis Anderson of St. Louis to win his fourth NFC rushing title in a row and put the Bears into the play-offs.

"Just make up any superlatives you want to describe him because no matter what you say, you'll be right," said Armstrong, who was Minnesota's defensive coordinator in 1977 when Payton rushed for his NFL record 275 yards. Armstrong likes this side better. Besides rushing more times than anyone else in football (369), Payton found time to catch 31 passes and throw one for a touchdown.

One of the reasons Payton had to play with nagging hurts was the absence of a regular fullback to pad his path. Starter Roland Harper missed the season and is questionable for this year. First sub John Skibinski went down in the first game and so did second sub Robin Earl.

The Bears scrambled for the rest of the season with San Francisco castoff Dave Williams at fullback. Williams was outstanding, considering he had never played the position before. He rushed for 401 yards and caught 42 passes, but he will return to halfback this year.

Earl moved to tight end and if neither Harper nor Skibinski return to form, the Bears will start their No. 2 draft choice, Penn State's Matt Suhey, who might be good enough to break into the lineup anyway. Payton has a promising understudy in Willie McClendon, who may be able to give No. 1 a breather now and then.

Phipps has fast targets at wide receiver in James Scott and Rickey Watts, who will line up together for the first time. Last year, rookie Watts replaced an injured Scott at mid season and helped spark the Bears' play-off drive with 24 catches and three touchdowns. With Scott healthy, it appears that last year's leading wide receiver, Brian Baschnagel, will return to an alternate role. The Bears felt good enough about the three to release veteran Golden Richards.

The Bears have not been able to incorporate the tight end into their passing game. They have finished last in the league in that area for two



1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Payton, 96 points on 16 TD's... 4th
RUSHING—Payton, 369 carries for 1610 yards, 14 TD's... 1st
PASSING—Phipps, 134 of 255 attempts for 1535 yards, 9 TD's... 7th
RECEIVING—Williams, 42 receptions for 354 yards, 8.4 avg., 5 TD's... 23rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Schmidt, 6 for 44 yards, 7.3 avg., 1 TD... 6th
PUNTING—Parsons, 92 punts, 37.9 avg., longest 54 yards... 13th
PUNT RETURNS—Schubert, 25 for 238 yards, 9.5 avg., 1 TD... 2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Walterscheid, 19 for 427 yards, 22.5 avg... 7th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 10 At NY Jets (N)
16 At Cincinnati (N)
23 CLEVELAND (N)
30 ST. LOUIS (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

September 7 At Green Bay
14 NEW ORLEANS
21 MINNESOTA
28 At Pittsburgh
October 6 TAMPA BAY (N)
12 At Minnesota
19 DETROIT
26 At Philadelphia
November 3 At Cleveland (N)
9 WASHINGTON
16 HOUSTON
23 At Atlanta
27 At Detroit
December 7 GREEN BAY
14 CINCINNATI
20 At Tampa Bay

1979 SCORES

15-14
—
26-7
—
13-17
27-30
35-7
—
—
—
—
0-20
6-3
—
14-0

NFCentral seasons and it is one of the main reasons the passing game ranked 26th in yards last year. Starters Mike Cobb (blocker) and Greg Latta (receiver) shuttled plays, but not many included their own numbers. The Bears are determined to make the tight end more than a decoy, because no one is covering the decoy anymore.

The Bears' offensive line has played intact for two seasons and shows few signs of change or deterioration. Tackles Ted Albrecht and Dennis Lick, No. 1 draft choices in 1977 and 1976, are more than adequate bookends. Guards Revie Sorey and Noah Jackson can pull and run in front of Payton despite their weight. Jackson's 297 pounds during the offseason was cause for some alarm. Center Dan Neal has provided steady play. Depth is a concern on the line, with inexperienced tackle Dan Jiggetts

the most proven commodity. The draft produced three center-guard candidates in Arland Thompson, Paul Tabor, and Randy Clark.

Despite the presence of Payton and the blossoming of Phipps, defense is what put the Bears into the play-offs last year and defense will have to get them there this year. The Bears finished in the top ten in the league in every defensive category save punt and kickoff returns. No other club in football could claim such balance. The credit goes to Armstrong and his Chicago defensive architect, Buddy Ryan, for devising a complex scheme best suited to the talents of their players.

With No. 1 draft choices Dan Hampton and Al Harris last year and Otis Wilson this year, the Bears have more talent with which to work. It will make everybody's job easier. On the line, Hampton started every game at left end and got better every week. When he perfects some finesse to complement his strength, he should be an All-Pro.

Veterans Jim Osborne and Alan Page start in the middle and led the club in sacks with 10½ and 10, respectively. The right end is six-year vet Mike Hartenstine, but he will be pushed hard by last year's other No. 1 draft choice, Harris, who spent the season recovering from knee surgery. The Bears like to mix up their alignments, so all five rushmen could play at the same time on occasion. Page, at age 35, has had his pride and career rejuvenated in Chicago after being ignominiously dumped by Minnesota in 1978.

The addition of Louisville's Wilson at linebacker in the draft will create plenty of interest. The first thing Wilson told his panting Chicago audience was that his hero was Dick Butkus and he patterns everything he does after the Hall of Famer. Asked if he planned to start in his first year, Wilson answered, "Start? All-Pro and all-rookie both."

Wilson will play the strong side, where Jerry Muckensturm replaced 14-year veteran Doug Buffone last season and led the team in tackles. Muckensturm will not concede his job, but Wilson is expected to see action in many of the Bears' one-linebacker or two-linebacker defenses.

Wilson was more of a middle linebacker at Louisville, but that position on the Bears is responsible for calling and switching defensive signals, a task too difficult for a rookie. Tom Hicks does it quite adequately and is backed by Mark Merrill. Gary Campbell is the incumbent on the right side and appears solid, with Bruce Herron in reserve.

There are all kinds of question marks in the Bear secondary. The Bears would have preferred a defensive back in the draft, but settled on Wilson when the top three prospects were gone. The Bears' led the NFC in interceptions last year, but one of the team leaders, strong safety Gary Fencik, is coming off knee and ankle surgery on the same leg. If he is healthy, a major problem will be averted. If he is not, the Bears have to decide whether to move free

BEARS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
64	Albrecht, T.	T-G	6-4	250	26	4	California
63	Ardizzone, T.	C	6-3	240	24	2	Northwestern
7	Avellini, B.	QB	6-2	210	27	6	Maryland
84	Baschnagel, B.	WR-KR	6-0	184	26	5	Ohio St.
60	Boden, L.	G	6-5	263	27	6	S. Dakota St.
59	Campbell, G.	LB	6-1	220	28	4	Colorado
87	Cobb, M.	TE	6-5	243	25	4	Michigan St.
49	Earl, R.	RB-TE	6-5	240	25	4	Washington
84	Ellis, A.	CB	5-10	177	29	7	UCLA
8	Evans, V.	QB	6-2	212	25	4	USC
45	Fencik, G.	S	6-1	192	26	5	Yale
36	Gaines, W.	CB	6-0	185	27	3	Cincinnati
83	Haines, K.	WR	5-11	180	23	2	Notre Dame
99	Hampton, D.	DE-DT	6-5	255	23	2	Arkansas
35	Harper, R.	RB	5-11	210	27	5	La. Tech
90	Harris, A.	DE	6-5	240	24	2	Arizona St.
73	Hartenstine, M.	DE	6-3	243	27	6	Penn St.
51	Herron, B.	LB	6-2	220	26	3	New Mexico
54	Hicks, T.	LB	6-4	235	28	5	Illinois
65	Jackson, N.	G	6-2	265	29	6	Tampa
62	Jiggetts, D.	T	6-4	270	26	5	Harvard
57	Kunz, L.	LB	6-2	225	23	2	Nebraska
88	Latta, G.	TE	6-3	225	28	6	Morgan St.
70	Lick, D.	T	6-3	265	26	5	Wisconsin
24	Livers, V.	CB-KR	5-8	183	28	6	W. Kentucky
37	McClendon, W.	RB	6-1	205	23	2	Georgia
50	Merrill, M.	LB	6-4	240	25	3	Minnesota
74	Meyers, J.	DE-DT	6-4	253	26	5	N. Illinois
58	Muckensturm, J.	LB	6-4	220	27	5	Ark. St.
52	Neal, D.	C	6-4	255	31	8	Kentucky
68	Osborne, J.	DT	6-3	245	31	9	Southern
82	Page, A.	DT	6-4	225	35	14	Notre Dame
86	Parsons, B.	P	6-5	225	30	9	Penn St.
34	Payton, W.	RB	5-10	202	26	6	Jackson St.
25	Perrin, L.	RB-K	6-1	225	29	5	Illinois
15	Phipps, M.	QB	6-3	209	33	11	Purdue
46	Plank, D.	S	5-11	202	27	6	Ohio St.
76	Rydalch, R.	DT	6-4	260	28	6	Utah
44	Schmidt, T.	CB	6-0	177	28	7	Ball St.
85	Schubert, S.	WR-KR	5-10	184	29	7	Mass.
89	Scott, J.	WR	6-1	190	28	5	Henderson JC
72	Shearer, B.	DT	6-3	247	25	2	Texas
30	Skibinski, J.	RB	6-0	222	25	2	Purdue
69	Sorey, R.	G	6-2	260	27	6	Illinois
47	Spivey, M.	CB	6-0	198	26	4	Colorado
16	Thomas, B.	K	5-10	175	28	6	Notre Dame
23	Walterscheid, L.	S-KR	5-11	190	26	4	S. Utah St.
81	Washington, H.	WR	6-0	185	24	3	Colorado St.
80	Watts, R.	WR-KR	6-1	203	23	2	Tulsa
22	Williams, D.	RB-KR	6-2	217	26	4	Colorado

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Wilson, Otis	LB	6-2	222	23	Louisville
2	Suhey, Matt	RB	5-11	212	22	Penn St.
4	Thompson, Arland	OG	6-3	251	23	Baylor
5	Tabor, Paul	C	6-4	241	24	Oklahoma
6	Guess, Mike	DB	5-9	170	22	Ohio St.
7	Tolbert, Emanuel	WR	5-8	182	22	SMU
8	Clark, Randy	OG	6-3	254	23	N. Illinois
9	Schonert, Turk	QB	6-1	185	23	Stanford
10	Stephens, Willie	S	6-0	189	22	Texas Tech
11	Judge, Chris	S	6-2	188	24	TCU
12	Fisher, Robert	TE	6-3	229	22	SMU

Chicago Bears (from top to bottom): James Scott is swift wide receiver; Brian Baschnagel led team with 452 yards on catches; guard Noah Jackson opens holes for running game; center Dan Neal (#52) provides steady play; and Mike Hartenstine is veteran defensive end.

safety Doug Plank and play Len Walterscheid at free or leave Plank at free and find a newcomer to play strong.

At cornerback, things appear just as shaky. Former starters Allan Ellis and Virgil Livers both have nagging injuries. Reserve Terry Schmidt became a very adequate starter last year and picked off six passes. If the Bears get new help here, it will have to come either from last year's No. 8 draft choice, Ricky Moss, back from a try in Canada, or this year's No. 6, Mike Guess.

The Bears have solid if not spectacular special teams. Steve Schubert helped them finish seventh in the league in punt returns. Watts helped them finish ninth in kickoff returns.

Although punter Bob Parsons had a below-par year in average, he led the league in boots downed inside the 20. Bob Thomas is a better than average place-kicker with the added advantage of security, often a luxury in this itinerant profession. No other punter-kicker duo has been around the NFC Central any longer than Parsons and Thomas. In a division where a blocked kick or an extra point could mean a championship, their presence is comforting.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS This is the team that jumped from worst to first in 1979. In 1980, the Buccaneers can prove they are also best.

"I think anyone who thinks the Buccaneers are just a one-year fluke is sadly mistaken," said general manager-coach John McKay.

When McKay talks, people laugh. But they also listen. When the Bucs were last in 1978, McKay blamed little more than injuries, which decimated his young team all season. When the Bucs jumped to 5-0 and 9-3 records last year, McKay pointed to his roster and noted no injuries. The Bucs proved they had good players. In the NFC Central, or in the NFC period, it is impossible not to take them quite seriously.

They had the No. 1 defense in football last year. With new confidence gained on offense, and a draft choice or two contributing, the Bucs are explosive enough to beat anyone.

They do not have the soft fifth-place schedule of a year ago, but they won the NFC Central by beating the other teams in it. Their 6-2 division record was better than the Bears' 5-3. They were the first expansion team to win a division within its first four years. And their playoff appearance was more than a bit part. They beat the Philadelphia Eagles, the club that eliminated the Bears.

Tampa Stadium became the surprise location of the NFC title game, the first time since 1972 that the game had not been in Dallas, Los Angeles, or Minnesota. They lost to the Los Angeles Rams 9-0, three field goals short of a Super Bowl trip.

Unbelievable? Hardly. A defense that ranks first in the NFL in points allowed, yards allowed, and yards per play allowed is no fluke.

"We shouldn't be able to sneak up on anybody anymore," says McKay. "I'm sure everyone in the league now realizes that they are in for a tough game with the Buccaneers."

While the defense was the cornerstone, the improvement of the offense was the key to the 1979 success. It jumped from last in the league in 1978 to fifteenth. There were four main reasons, starting with second-year quarterback Doug Williams.

Williams was rapped for completing only 41.8 per cent of his passes. But he was a big-play quarterback. He made the completions count for 18 touchdowns, fourth in the NFC. His 14.7 yards per completion was the best in the NFC.

"He is the future of the team," said McKay. "You must remember he has only quarterbacked 24 games in the NFL. I would not expect Doug to be a 40 percent passer for all of his career or even this year. But I do not believe in completing passes just to say you have a high percentage. I want an aggressive passing game that will make the big play and if the cost of that is the team's completion percentage, so be it." Williams's backups are veteran Mike Rae and young Chuck Fusina.

The second reason for offensive success was the tremendous improvement of the offensive line, which went from last in sacks allowed to first in the NFL. Although Williams's near uncanny ability to get rid of the ball was partly responsible for this (as well as for his low completion rate), the blocking was easily the best it has ever been. Two new additions on the right side, converted rush man Charley Hannah at tackle and rookie Greg Roberts at guard, "exceeded all our expectations," said McKay. Another addition this year, No. 1 draft choice Ray Snell of Wisconsin, is expected to make similar impact on the left side, where he will challenge incumbent Greg Horton.

"We had Snell rated the No. 1 guard in the country, ahead of Brad Budde of USC," said McKay, who has been known to favor USC athletes. The Bucs were not the only team that rated Snell so highly.

Veterans Steve Wilson and Dave Reavis return at center and left tackle, respectively. All of the line starters are under 30 years of age. Darrell Austin played all five positions as a valuable reserve last season. George Yarno is another backup.

Williams's favorite big-play target was tight end Jimmy Giles. If Giles is not the best tight

end in football, he certainly belongs in the same conversation as Dave Casper, Russ Francis, or Riley Odoms.

Giles was an outstanding blocker in the running game and led the club with 40 catches for 579 yards and seven touchdowns. He can get deep despite his 245 pounds. No other tight end in the NFC caught more touchdown passes.

"He is so big and so quick," said McKay. "If I wanted to be sadistic I'd play him at fullback."

Tight end Jim Odravovich lined up opposite Giles in two tight end formations and the Bucs traded for San Francisco's Paul Seal for depth.



Buccaneers' coach John McKay

What made Giles's contributions all the more noteworthy is that he had precious little help from Tampa wide receivers. Defenders could gang up on Giles, because they did not need to double anyone else.

"We still don't have a wide receiver who plays like an All-Pro," said McKay. The need was so great that McKay traded a valuable commodity, starting cornerback Jeris White, to Washington for the Redskins' leading receiver in 1979, Danny Buggs. Buggs is fast, but obviously was not the answer for the Redskins. If he provides no relief for Tampa, the Bucs are still looking to the draft for help.

Last year's No. 2 choice, Gordon Jones, caught only four passes, but McKay believes he has the tools and can star if he improves his discipline on pass routes. "He is one of our major projects this season," said McKay. To make sure, another wide receiver was selected in round two this year, Southern Illinois' Kevin House. The Bucs had House rated behind Lam Jones and Syracuse's Art Monk, the man Washington drafted to dump Buggs.

If none of the newcomers pan out, last season's starters are back. Little but fast Isaac Hagins caught 39 passes for a team record 692 yards and Larry Mucker scored five touchdowns on his 15 catches.

The fourth reason for offensive improvement was the running of Ricky Bell. He finished sixth in the league with 1,263 yards and can operate from the fullback or tailback spot. With every season, Bell is justifying the faith that McKay showed by drafting him before Tony Dorsett and then passing up Earl Campbell to trade for Jimmy Giles.

1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—O'Donoghue, 63 points on 11 field goals and 30 PAT's... 16th
RUSHING—Bell, 283 carries for 1263 yards, 4.5 avg., 7 TD's... 4th
PASSING—Williams, 166 of 397 attempts for 2448 yards, 18 TD's... 13th
RECEIVING—Giles, 40 receptions for 579 yards, 14.5 avg., 7 TD's... 27th
INTERCEPTIONS—Brown, 3 for 79 yards, 26.3 avg., 23rd
PUNTING—Blanchard, 93 punts, 39.6 avg., longest 58 yards... 11e 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Reece, 70 for 431 yards, 6.2 avg., 10th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Ragsdale, 34 for 675 yards, 19.9 avg., 14th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 11 At Houston (N)
16 ST. LOUIS (N)
23 CINCINNATI (N)
29 WASHINGTON (N)

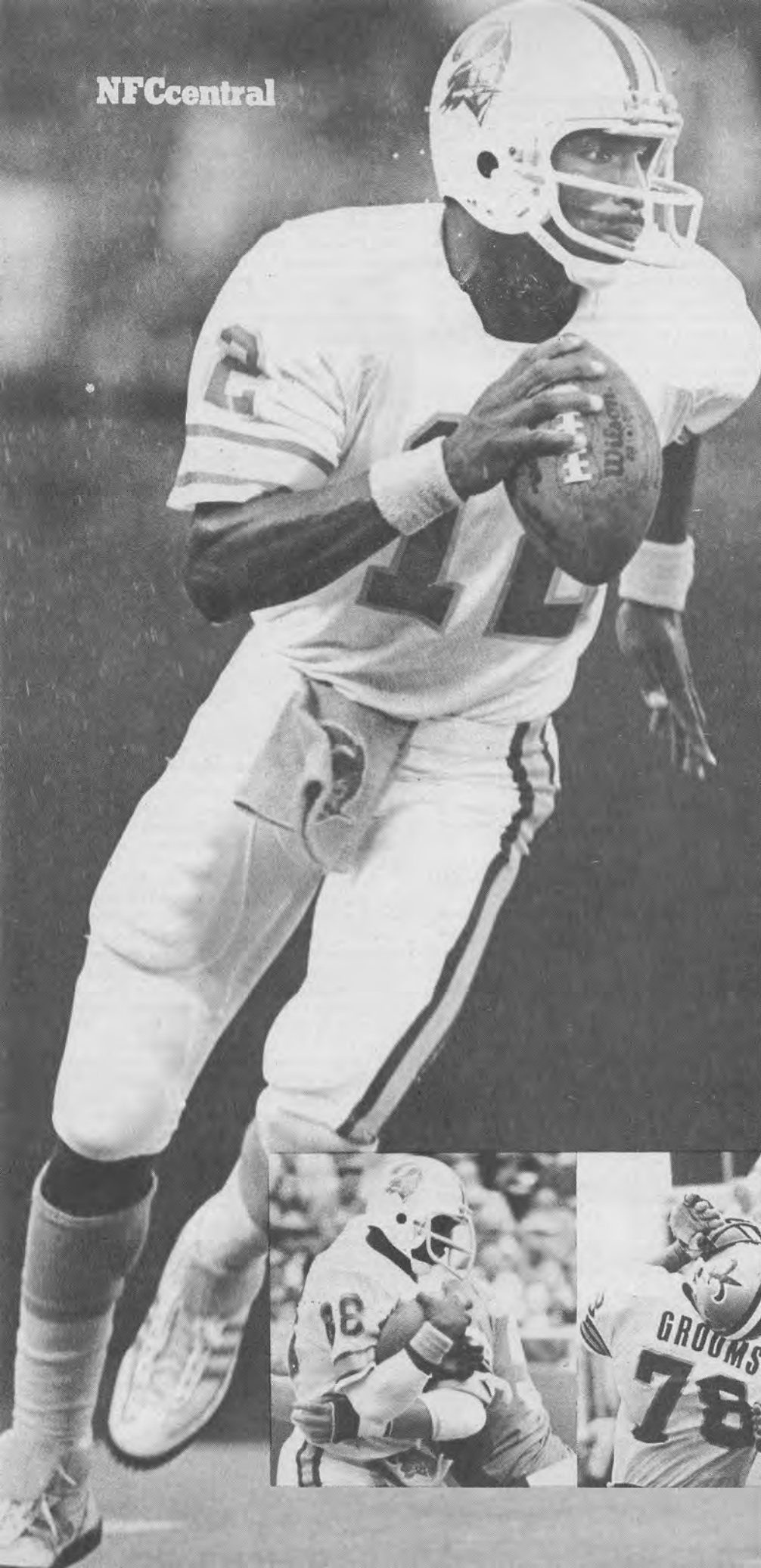
1980 SCHEDULE

September 7 At Cincinnati
11 LOS ANGELES (N)
21 At Dallas
28 CLEVELAND
October 6 At Chicago (N)
12 GREEN BAY
19 At Houston
26 At San Francisco
November 2 NY GIANTS
9 PITTSBURGH
16 At Minnesota
23 DETROIT
30 At Green Bay
December 7 MINNESOTA
14 At Detroit
20 CHICAGO

1979 SCORES

—
21-6
—
—
17-13
21-3
—
7-23
31-3
—
12-10
31-16
21-10
22-23
16-14
0-14

NFCcentral



Bell gets the ball in every tough spot. He carried 39 times when the Bucs clinched the division title 3-0 against Kansas City, and his 142 yards in 38 carries against the Eagles was the best total in post-season play.

Bell teams with halfback Jerry Eckwood or fullback Johnny Davis, depending on the situation. Davis and Eckwood combined for 911 yards rushing. Eckwood was a genuine outside threat until slowed by a wrist injury, one of the few injuries the Bucs suffered. Rick Berns, like Eckwood a second-year man, will get more action. If fullback Jimmy DuBose comes back from knee surgery, the Bucs should have unusual depth.

Depth is not so apparent on defense, but the first team is surely one of the best in football. Left end Lee Roy Selmon has few peers and proved it by winning several defensive player-of-the-year polls. He had 11 sacks, impressive for a left end and phenomenal for a left end from a three-man rush.

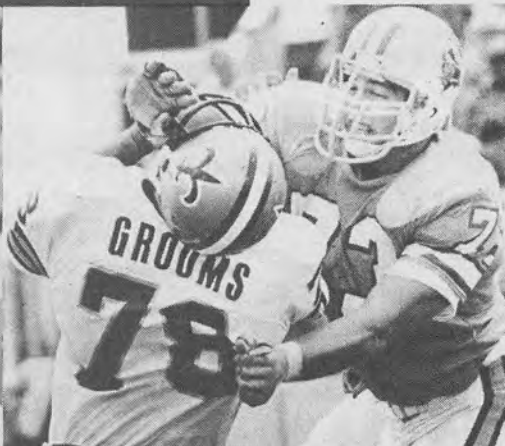
Randy Crowder is expected to take up where he left off at nose guard last season. He became a starter at midseason. Wally Chambers made big plays from the right end and Bill Kollar saw plenty of action at both nose guard and end. Three second-year men, Reggie Lewis, Gene Sanders, and David Logan, provide adequate but inexperienced depth.

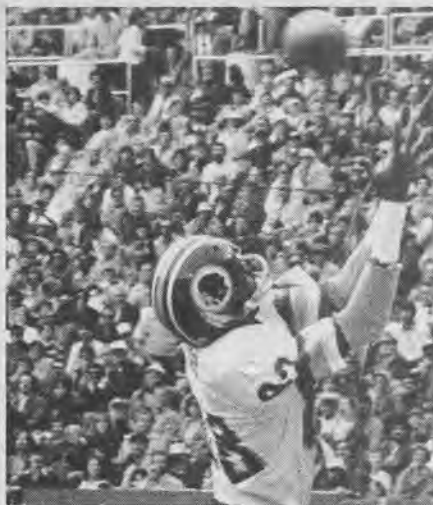
Although Richard Wood, the oldest of the Buc linebackers, will be entering only his sixth season, 1980 will make the fourth year as a unit for the quartet of Wood, Dewey Selmon, David Lewis, and Cecil Johnson. The 6-4, 245-pound Lewis finally got some individual recognition last year. His versatility was shown in 5½ sacks, 2 interceptions, 9 passes broken up, 111 tackles, and 4 caused fumbles. Wood led the Buc tacklers with 158 from his inside position, where he lines up next to the signal caller and glue of the defense, Dewey Selmon. Johnson is the underrated member of the group, a steady performer on the right side.

Dana Nafziger, Aaron Brown, and Rick Bonness got limited playing time, although Nafziger filled in capably when Johnson was hurt. No. 3 draft choice Scot Brantley of Florida is an interesting pick who could star if not bothered by the head injury that ended his college career.

The Bucs ranked first in the NFL in pass

Tampa Bay standouts: Doug Williams (left) is a big-play QB; tight end Jimmy Giles (below left) is Williams's favorite target; Charley Hannah (below) made conversion to OT; David Lewis (below right) excels at LB.





BUCCANEERS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
69	Austin, D.	OG	6-4	255	29	6	So. Carolina
42	Bell, R.	RB	6-2	215	25	4	USC
36	Berns, R.	RB	6-2	205	24	2	Nebraska
16	Blanchard, T.	P	6-0	185	31	10	Oregon
53	Bonness, R.	LB	6-3	220	26	5	Nebraska
55	Brown, A.	LB	6-2	235	24	3	Ohio St.
34	Brown, C.	DB	6-2	205	26	4	Kent St.
	Buggs, D.	WR	6-2	185	27	6	W. Virginia
60	Chambers, W.	DE	6-6	250	29	7	E. Kentucky
33	Cotney, M.	DB	6-0	205	28	6	Cameron St.
71	Crowder, R.	DL	6-3	250	28	6	Penn. St.
38	Davis, J.	RB	6-1	235	24	3	Alabama
27	Davis, T.	RB	5-11	210	27	5	Nebraska
35	DuBose, J.	RB	6-0	220	26	4	Florida
43	Eckwood, J.	RB	6-0	200	26	2	Arkansas
83	Foster, E.	WR	5-10	185	26	2	Houston
14	Fusina, C.	DB	6-1	195	23	2	Penn. St.
88	Giles, J.	TE	6-3	245	26	4	Alcorn St.
4	Green, D.	P	6-0	210	31	7	Ohio
81	Hagins, I.	WR	5-9	180	26	4	Southern
73	Hannah, C.	OT	6-6	260	25	4	Alabama
11	Henderson, R.	P	6-3	210	24	1	Virginia
64	Horton, G.	OG	6-4	250	29	5	Colorado
56	Johnson, C.	LB	6-2	230	25	4	Pittsburgh
84	Jones, G.	WR	6-0	190	23	2	Pittsburgh
25	Jordan, C.	DB	6-2	205	26	5	Texas Tech
77	Kollar, Bill	DL	6-4	250	28	7	Montana St.
57	Lewis, David	LB	6-4	245	26	4	USC
79	Lewis, Reggie	DL	6-3	255	24	2	N. Texas St.
76	Logan, David	DL	6-2	250	24	2	Pittsburgh
89	McKay, John	WR	5-11	180	27	4	USC
87	Mucker, Larry	WR	5-11	190	26	4	Arizona St.
51	Natziger, Dana	LB	6-1	220	27	4	Cal Poly SLO
6	O'Donoghue, N.	PK	6-6	212	27	4	Auburn
86	Oradovich, J.	TE	6-2	230	27	6	USC
15	Rae, Mike	QB	6-0	200	29	5	USC
23	Ragsdale, G.	RB	5-11	190	27	4	N. Car. A&T
75	Reavis, Dave	OT	6-5	260	30	6	Arkansas
46	Reece, Danny	DB	5-11	195	25	5	USC
61	Roberts, Greg	OG	6-3	260	24	2	Oklahoma
74	Sanders, Gene	DL	6-3	260	24	2	Texas A&M
58	Selmon, D.	LB	6-1	240	27	5	Oklahoma
63	Selmon, L.R.	DE	6-3	250	26	5	Oklahoma
80	Stephens, S.	TE	6-3	245	23	1	Okla. St.
40	Washington, M.	DB	6-3	200	27	5	Alabama
12	Williams, Doug	QB	6-4	215	25	3	Grambling
52	Wilson, Steve	C	6-3	265	26	5	Georgia
54	Wood, Richard	LB	6-2	230	27	6	USC
68	Yarno, G.	OG	6-2	255	23	2	Wash. St.

DRAFTIES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Snell, Ray	OG	6-3	250	22	Wisconsin
2	House, Kevin	WR	5-11	172	22	S. Illinois
3	Brantley, Scot	LB	6-3	230	22	Florida
4	Flowers, Larry	DB	6-0	184	21	Tex. Tech.
7	Leonard, Jim	C	6-3	245	22	Santa Clara
8	Goddard, Derrick	DB	6-1	205	21	Drake
9	Carter, Gerald	WR	6-0	180	22	Texas A&M
10	Hawkins, Andy	LB	6-1	206	21	Texas A&I
12	Davis, Brett	RB	6-3	200	22	Las Vegas
12	Coleman, Gene	DB	5-11	178	22	Miami

Danny Buggs, newest Buccaneer

defense, but the trade of White left a question mark in the secondary. If last year's fifth back, Curtis Jordan, cannot replace White at left corner, the Bucs probably will have to trade. Draftees Larry Flowers, Derrick Goddard, and Gene Coleman are all safety-types. Billy Cesare backed up at all four spots and Danny Reece plays near the goal line. Safeties Cedric Brown (free) and Mark Cotney (strong) are big hitters who each weigh more than 200 pounds.

"They aren't just centerfielders, and Mark, in particular, is an excellent blitzer," said McKay.

Reece set a league record with 70 punt returns. He had only one fair catch. But he averaged just 6.2 yards a return, good for only 22nd in the league, and McKay would like to see improvement. The same goes for George Ragsdale and Hagins, who returned kickoffs. The Bucs finished 27th in that department.

Punting and field-goal kicking were not much better, although McKay absolves place-kicker Neil O'Donoghue for the kicks that were blocked. "We had some problems protecting our kicker," he said. Veteran Tom Blanchard trailed off in his punting at season's end and will be challenged by Dave Green, who tore an Achilles tendon in the pre-season and was replaced by Blanchard.

"Our division is wide open once again," said McKay. "Chicago and Minnesota should be strong and Green Bay and Detroit are in a position with good drafts and better luck with injuries to rise up like we did last year. But we will be better and we don't intend to surrender the championship."

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

It is not far to the bottom of the NFC Central, which means the Minnesota Vikings are not far from the top, either.

Last year, on the way down, the Vikings stopped at third place. This year, they should be on the way back up. If their rivals fail to establish themselves early, the Vikings will be rebuilt before anyone notices their absence.

Spoiled Minnesota fans noticed, of course. Figuring that Fran Tarkenton would not be missed, they were misled by a 3-3 start in 1979 and then indignant over a 4-6 finish. They suffered through the first losing season since Bud Grant arrived to coach in 1967. For shame.

Who does Jim Marshall think he is, anyway? The nerve of the man, walking off his job at age 42. What do you mean Chuck Foreman is through? Paul Krause is still intercepting passes, isn't he? Bobby Bryant is still playing cornerback at age 36. That Carl Eller just got lazy, that's all. This team doesn't need time to rebuild. These guys were never old before.

So Bud Grant is not allowed the luxury of time. That is all right with him, because he does not appear to need much time.

"We lost three games by less than a touchdown," he said. "If we had won them, we would probably be in the play-offs."

Everybody would be in the play-offs, Bud. Almost everybody who isn't has missed by a touchdown or so. And that is exactly what used to characterize the Vikings when they won ten NFC Central titles. They won the close ones. Their opponents used to whine and call them lucky. They used to swear they were better than the Vikings. Bigger, faster, meaner than the Vikings. The Vikings were merely luckier.

Actually, the Vikings were mainly smarter. Their age and Grant's guidance taught them how to win. Somehow they would come up with the big play, whether it was Fran Tarkenton scrambling for another first down or Alan Page stealing a ball at the goal line. It was a skill the Vikings came to expect of themselves, which made it all the easier. It also spoiled their fans, which makes a 7-9 record all the harder to swallow.



Vikings' coach Bud Grant

But Grant has not forgotten how to win. Neither has Ron Yary or Jeff Siemon or Matt Blair or Ahmad Rashad or a few others who still form the nucleus of a proud organization. If the Chicago Bears or Tampa Bay Buccaneers plan to keep the Vikings down for long, they better get up on top in a hurry.

The original "Purple People Eaters" are all gone now. So is Tarkenton, another original. So is Foreman. But No. 1 draft choices have taken their places. Soon, they are expected to play like them.

In his first year as a starter, quarterback Tommy Kramer came within 71 yards of Tarkenton's club record for passing yardage. He threw 23 touchdown passes, two behind Tarkenton's club record. In the Vikings' final game, Kramer outdid anything Tarkenton ever dared by throwing 61 times and completing 35.

1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Danmeier, 67 points on 13 field goals and 28 PAT's... 12th
RUSHING—Young, 188 carries for 708 yards, 3.8 avg., 3 TD's... 10th
PASSING—Kramer, 315 of 566 attempts for 3397 yards, 23 TD's... 6th
RECEIVING—Rashad, 80 receptions for 1156 yards, 9 TD's... 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Hannon, 4 for 85 yards, 21.3 avg... 13th
PUNTING—Coleman, 90 punts, 39.5 avg., longest 70 yards... 10th
PUNT RETURNS—Edwards, 33 for 186 yards, 5.6 avg... 12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Edwards, 44 for 1103 yards, 25.1 avg... 1st

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 9 SAN DIEGO
18 At Kansas City (N)
23 At Miami (N)
30 CLEVELAND (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

September 7 ATLANTA
14 PHILADELPHIA
21 At Chicago
28 At Detroit
October 5 PITTSBURGH
12 CHICAGO
19 At Cincinnati
26 At Green Bay
November 2 At Washington
9 DETROIT
16 TAMPA BAY
23 GREEN BAY
30 At New Orleans
December 7 At Tampa Bay
14 CLEVELAND
21 At Houston

1979 SCORES

7-26
13-10
30-27
—
7-19
—
14-7
10-12
27-21
—
23-22
—
—

Kramer compiled his statistics without benefit of a dangerous running attack. Tarkenton always had the threat of Foreman, but Foreman averaged only 2.6 yards a carry last year. Defenses paid no attention; he was benched, and his replacement was hampered by injury.

The Vikings would like to see Kramer cut down on the 24 interceptions he threw last year. Some of them proved quite costly, but considering his attempts—second only to San Francisco's Steve DeBerg—Kramer's percentage of interceptions ranked a respectable ninth in the league. Kramer played every offensive play for the Vikings (except for a fake punt in the season finale, when rookie Steve Dils took a snap and handed off to Brent McClanahan). While this provided Kramer with plenty of experience entering his fourth season, it did not do much for Viking depth at the vital position.

Few teams can survive the loss of their starting quarterback, but the loss of Kramer might prove particularly devastating considering the Vikings' offensive style. John Reaves is starting his ninth season as a backup, but he has thrown only 539 passes in his career, fewer than Kramer threw last season. Steve Dils begins his second year.

While Kramer did not have much of a running attack on which to rely, almost any quarterback would be happy to lean on wide receivers Rashad and Sammy White. Rashad led the NFL with 80 catches and his 14.5 average gain per catch enabled him to lead the NFC and set a Viking record with 1,156 yards.

Teammate Marshall dubbed Rashad the "Surgeon General." Marshall, who saw wide receivers come and go during a 20-year career, said, "I could watch Rashad play football all day and feel like I accomplished something."

Purple gang: QB Tommy Kramer threw 23 TD passes in 1979; Fred McNeill makes another tackle for Minnesota; the Vikings block a Miami kick (below).



Nobody operates like the Surgeon General."

Rashad does not disagree, although he carries the comparison from the sciences to the performing arts.

"I am the Baryshnikov of football," Rashad explains.

Counterpart White is the deeper threat, averaging 17 yards on his 42 catches. White's four touchdown catches were a four-year low that he expects to improve. There is little depth at receiver. Backups Robert Steele and Terry LeCount caught seven passes between them last season.

Although Kramer utilized tight end Bob Tucker only half as much as Tucker's old buddy Tarkenton did, the 11-year pro remains a dependable part of the offense. Tucker and former starter Stu Voigt, also in his 11th year, each caught two touchdown passes.

Foreman's slide and subsequent trade to New England was supposed to coincide with the rise of Ted Brown. If it doesn't, the Vikings are in trouble. Brown came out of North Carolina State last year more highly rated by many scouts than Ottis Anderson. But a knee injury slowed his progress and made fans skeptical. Brown gained 551 yards and his 4.2 average was better than any other Viking back, but he scored only one touchdown and his longest run was 34 yards.

"He played on a leg and a half," said Grant.

Brown himself was discouraged and expressed some dissatisfaction with the Viking medical staff. But Grant is confident of a full recovery. Before the draft, the Vikings sent their trainer to Georgia to visit Brown and the

surgeon who performed an off-season operation on Brown's knee. Grant was satisfied enough with the report to pass up a running back early in the draft.

The Vikings would like a big blocking fullback to pair with Brown, but will enter the season with veteran Rickey Young, Kramer's second favorite pass target. Young caught 72 passes and also found time to be the team's leading rusher with 708 yards.

If a blockbusting runner takes Young's place, Young obviously would play in passing situations. And if a blockbusting runner does emerge, it will have to come from the fifth round of the Viking draft. The Vikings took North Carolina's 215-pound Doug Paschal and California's 235-pound Paul Jones on consecutive picks, hoping at least one will come through. Journeymen Robert Miller and Brent McClanahan are the only proven reserves.

Grant thinks enough of his offensive line that he traded starting left tackle Steve Riley to New Orleans and ignored the position in the draft. He is counting on year 13 from Yary at right tackle and continued improvement from Wes Hamilton at right guard. Dennis Swilley filled Mick Tingelhoff's ancient shoes well at center and Jim Hough was good enough at left guard to displace vet Charles Goodrum. Young Dave Huffman is a good center prospect. Grant likes Frank Myers at left tackle and will worry about depth later in the pre-season. He made UCLA's Brent Boyd a third-round draft choice and will play him at guard, freeing Goodrum to play tackle.

To demonstrate again where the Vikings



Minnesota receiver Ahmad Rashad

place their priorities, a defensive lineman was the team's fourth No. 1 draft choice in the last six years. The choice of Washington's Doug Martin as the ninth pick in the entire draft surprised other teams. But if Martin can replace left tackles Dave Roller and Doug Sutherland, the Vikings will start four No. 1 draft choices on the line.

Randy Holloway, 1978 No. 1, will step in for Marshall at right end. James White, 1976 No. 1, replaced Page three years ago. Mark Mullaney, 1975 No. 1, emerged from Eller's shadow last season at left end. Mullaney led the club in sacks with eight. Sutherland lost his job to

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Roller last year, indicating the need for help. The only proven reserve is yet another No. 1 draft choice, Steve Niehaus, who was a disappointment in Seattle.

The Viking linebacking remains the strength of the defense, with long-time starters Blair, Siemon, and Fred McNeill back intact. The Vikings think their slip to 26th in the league against the rush was a failure of the front four rather than the linebackers. Blair led the team with 110 unassisted tackles. Derrel Luce and Scott Studwell will get some help as reserves from fourth-round draft choice Dennis Johnson of USC. Studwell sees a lot of playing time in various alignments.

There is hope that the second-round draft choice, LSU cornerback Willie Teal, will fill an immediate need at left corner, where another second-rounder, John Turner (1978), has not made the Vikings forget Nate Wright. If Wright

VIKINGS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	H	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
47	Baylor, T.	S	6-5	199	26	5	Morgan St.
59	Blair, M.	LB	6-5	229	29	7	Iowa St.
23	Brown, T.	RB	5-10	198	23	2	N.C. St.
20	Bryant, B.	CB	6-1	170	36	12	So. Carolina
8	Coleman, G.	P	6-0	178	26	4	Fla. A&M
7	Danmeier, R.	K	6-0	183	28	3	Sioux Falls
12	Dils, S.	QB	6-1	190	25	2	Stanford
32	Edwards, J.	RB	5-9	185	28	2	NE Louisiana
68	Goodrum, C.	T	6-3	256	30	8	Fla. A&M
61	Hamilton, W.	G	6-3	255	27	5	Tulsa
45	Hannon, T.	S	5-11	193	25	4	Mich. St.
58	Hilgenberg, W.	LB	6-3	229	38	17	Iowa
75	Holloway, R.	DE	6-5	245	25	3	Pittsburgh
51	Hough, J.	C	6-2	267	24	3	Utah St.
56	Huffman, D.	C	6-6	255	23	2	Notre Dame
25	Knoff, K.	S	6-2	188	26	5	Kansas
9	Kramer, T.	QB	6-1	199	25	4	Rice
22	Krause, P.	S	6-3	205	38	17	Iowa
80	LeCount, T.	WR	5-10	172	24	3	Florida
57	Luce, D.	LB	6-3	227	28	6	Baylor
33	McClanahan, B.	RB	5-10	202	30	8	Arizona St.
54	McNeill, F.	LB	6-2	229	28	7	UCLA
87	Miller, K.	WR	5-10	180	25	3	Louisville
35	Miller, R.	RB	5-11	204	27	6	Kansas
77	Mullaney, M.	DE	6-6	242	27	6	Col. St.
74	Myers, F.	T	6-5	255	24	3	Texas A&M
71	Niehaus, S.	DT	6-4	255	26	5	Notre Dame
49	Nord, K.	S	6-0	197	23	2	St. Cloud St.
65	Norman, A.	DE	6-5	245	25	1	Iowa St.
36	Payton, E.	KR	5-6	179	29	4	Jackson St.
28	Rashad, A.	WR	6-2	200	31	8	Oregon
11	Reaves, J.	QB	6-3	210	30	9	Florida
76	Roller, D.	DT	6-2	270	31	7	Kentucky
81	Senser, J.	TE	6-4	240	24	1	W. Chester St.
50	Siemon, J.	LB	6-3	237	30	9	Stanford
82	Steele, R.	WR	6-4	196	24	3	N. Alabama
55	Studwell, S.	LB	6-2	224	26	4	Illinois
69	Sutherland, D.	DT	6-3	250	32	11	Superior
67	Swilley, D.	G	6-3	241	25	4	Texas A&M
38	Tucker, B.	TE	6-3	230	35	11	Bloomsburg
27	Turner, J.	CB	6-0	199	24	3	Miami
83	Voigt, S.	TE	6-1	225	32	11	Wisconsin
72	White, J.	DT	6-3	263	27	5	Okl. St.
85	White, S.	WR	5-11	189	26	5	Grambling
43	Wright, N.	CB	5-11	180	33	12	San Diego St.
73	Yary, R.	T	6-6	255	34	13	USC
34	Young, R.	RB	6-2	195	27	6	Jackson St.

DRAFTTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Martin, Doug	DE	6-3	255	22	Washington
2	Teal, Willie	DB	5-10	185	22	LSU
3	Boyd, Brent	C	6-3	240	22	UCLA
4	Johnson, Dennis	LB	6-3	235	22	USC
5	Paschal, Doug	RB	6-0	200	22	N. Carolina
5	Jones, Paul	RB	6-0	215	21	California
6	Yakovonis, Ray	DE	6-5	250	22	E. Stroudsburg
7	Johnson, Henry	LB	6-2	230	22	Ga. Tech
9	Mosley, Dennis	RB	6-0	190	21	Iowa
10	Brown, Ken	WR	5-11	176	22	Nebraska
11	Harrell, Sam	RB	6-2	205	22	E. Carolina
12	Lane, Thomas	DB	6-0	185	23	Fla. A&M



Viking pass catcher Sammy White

can return from a broken arm for the second straight year, it will be a plus. But Wright is starting his twelfth year at age 32, a little old to worry about broken arms.

Bobby Bryant is still effective at age 36 on the other corner, and the middle appears set with strong safety Tom Hannon and free safety Kurt Knoff, who replaced Krause. Hannon may be a budding star. Tim Baylor and Keith Nord fill out the defensive backfield roster.

Come age or retirement, the Vikings still block kicks like no other team in football. The peerless Blair, a master of the art, knocked down five conversion attempts last season. On any given Sunday, that could mean a victory. Holloway blocked two field goals and two conversions. The Vikings blocked 13 kicks total.

When the Vikings were winners, their inability to return kicks was overlooked. Now Jimmy Edwards has given them one of the best records in the league. Edwards led the NFC in kickoff returns and the Vikings as a team led the league. Edwards also is a dangerous punt returner. Punter Greg Coleman and place-kicker Rick Danmeier provided average kicking, and the Viking coverage teams were better than average.

The Vikings play Chicago twice in their first six games, NFC Central fans may be able to find out in a hurry whether the Vikings' 1979 relapse was serious or merely a short pause to catch their breath.

DETROIT LIONS By most rational standards, the Detroit Lions are pathetic.

How pathetic are they? We might find out in 1980. Even the most zealous Lion fan could not blame all 14 of last season's losses on the untimely injury to quarterback Gary Danielson in the final pre-season game.

Assuming that Danielson can avoid similar misfortune, and assuming he gets a contract that will make him happy, the Lions have many good things going for them. Or do they?

This is virtually the same club that finished strongly in 1978 and was picked by many observers to win the NFC Central in 1979. Or is it? The Lion always seem to have a respectable club on paper. They always seem a break away. But are they?

This year, they ended all kinds of silly speculation on draft day by taking Oklahoma halfback Billy Sims No. 1. Sims is the kind of player who leaves no doubts among scouts. Every club in the NFL, even the ones employing Walter Payton and Earl Campbell, would have drafted Billy Sims. Yet the Lions dropped hints of trading the choice. General manager-coach Monte Clark mentioned he might take center Jim Ritcher first.

Sims's agent, Jerry Argovitz, got into an argument with Russ Thomas, the Lions' vice president in charge of owner William Clay Ford's purse, before the draft. This led to further speculation, charges, and counter-charges. The Lions drafted Sims anyway, saying they expected to sign him. It was as if they figured it did not really matter; a player such as Sims will be available again in 10 or 15 years. Ford finally said, "I owe it to the fans." A loud amen was heard echoing from the used car lots to the Pontiac Silverdome.

In 1980, the Lions also have the advantage of the notoriously easy schedule for fifth-place teams. By last year's won-lost records, only the Los Angeles Rams lucked into a simpler list of opponents. But whom do the Lions open against? The Rams in Anaheim. How easy is that? They also play St. Louis twice, and the Cardinals have their own Billy Sims in O.J. Anderson.

To complement Sims, the Lions have one of the best tight ends in football. Or do they? David Hill was reprimanded once for criticizing the Lions' offensive game plan after a loss to Minnesota during which Hill had only one pass thrown his way. Clark stripped Hill of his co-captaincy for the final seven games after he arrived late for meetings and practice. Stay tuned.

For a football team, the Lions put on a pretty good circus. What do you expect playing in a tent? But ringmaster Clark does offer hope.

"Monte hasn't given up on us," said defensive tackle Doug English, a co-captain. "We haven't given up on Monte. The one thing Monte has never done is get down on his players and we all respect him for that. That's why we're all behind him."

Sims, of course, offers the only real hope to climb out of the cellar. He is so good that



Lions' running back Dexter Bussey



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reasonable men within the NFC Central fear he could propel the Lions right to the top, especially given the soft schedule.

The Lions did hold leads in ten games last fall and lost eight games by eight points or less. In the swamp of NFL parity, even a pathetic organization can come close.

Sims did his first bit of negotiating at the Lions' rookie camp after the draft, when he bench-pressed the maximum 390 pounds, ran a 4.45-second 40-yard dash, and broke the club record in the agility drill. Since he had caught only two passes in his college career, Danielson and Clark were anxious to test this skill. Sims quickly scored a touchdown and the coach and quarterback turned cartwheels.

Where there is good news in Detroit, bad can't be far behind. Last year's leading rusher, Dexter Bussey, ended the season vowing never to play for the Lions again. Bussey averaged 4.3 yards and gained 625 before losing his starting job to Rick Kane late in the season. Bussey is a good back the Lions will miss if his promise comes true. Second-year man Bo Robinson is expected to team with Sims at fullback. The 225-pounder beat out journeymen Horace King and Lawrence Gaines last season.

The return of Danielson is nearly as vital to the Lions' hopes as the emergence of Sims. Danielson matured as a leader and quarterback in 1978, and his injury devastated the club early in the 1979 season. When backup Joe Reed also went down in the first game, rookie Jeff Komlo took over and shocked even his most ardent admirers.

In short, Komlo did not play like a ninth-round draft choice. He threw more passes than any other quarterback in Lion history and had 240-plus days against Atlanta, Tampa Bay, and Chicago. But he was no miracle worker and the Lions spent a fourth-round draft choice this year on Utah State quarterback Eric Hipple. The Lions finished 23d or lower in every passing category last year.

1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Ricardo, 55 points on 10 field goals and 25 PAT's... 22nd
RUSHING—Bussey, 144 carries for 625 yards, 4.3 avg., 1 TD... 14th
PASSING—Komlo, 183 of 368 attempts for 2238 yards, 11 TD's... 14th
RECEIVING—Scott, 62 receptions for 929 yards, 15.0 avg., 5 TD's... 5th
INTERCEPTIONS—Bradley, 4 for 11 yards, 2.8 avg... 20th
PUNTING—Swider, 88 punts, 40.0 avg., longest 72 yards... 6th
PUNT RETURNS—Arnold, 19 for 164 yards, 8.6 avg... 4th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Arnold, 23 for 539 yards, 23.4 avg... 5th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 10 At Miami
16 BUFFALO (N)
23 NEW ORLEANS (N)
30 At Cincinnati (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

September	7 At Los Angeles	—
	14 At Green Bay	16-24
	21 ST. LOUIS	—
	28 MINNESOTA	10-13
October	5 At Atlanta	24-23
	12 NEW ORLEANS	—
	19 At Chicago	7-35
	26 At Kansas City	—
November	2 SAN FRANCISCO	—
	9 At Minnesota	7-14
	16 BALTIMORE	—
	23 At Tampa Bay	16-31
	27 CHICAGO	20-0
December	7 At St. Louis	—
	14 TAMPA BAY	14-16
	21 GREEN BAY	13-18

1979 SCORES

Roaring Lions: No. 1 draft choice Bill Sims, fullback Bo Robinson (right), and linebacker Ed O'Neil



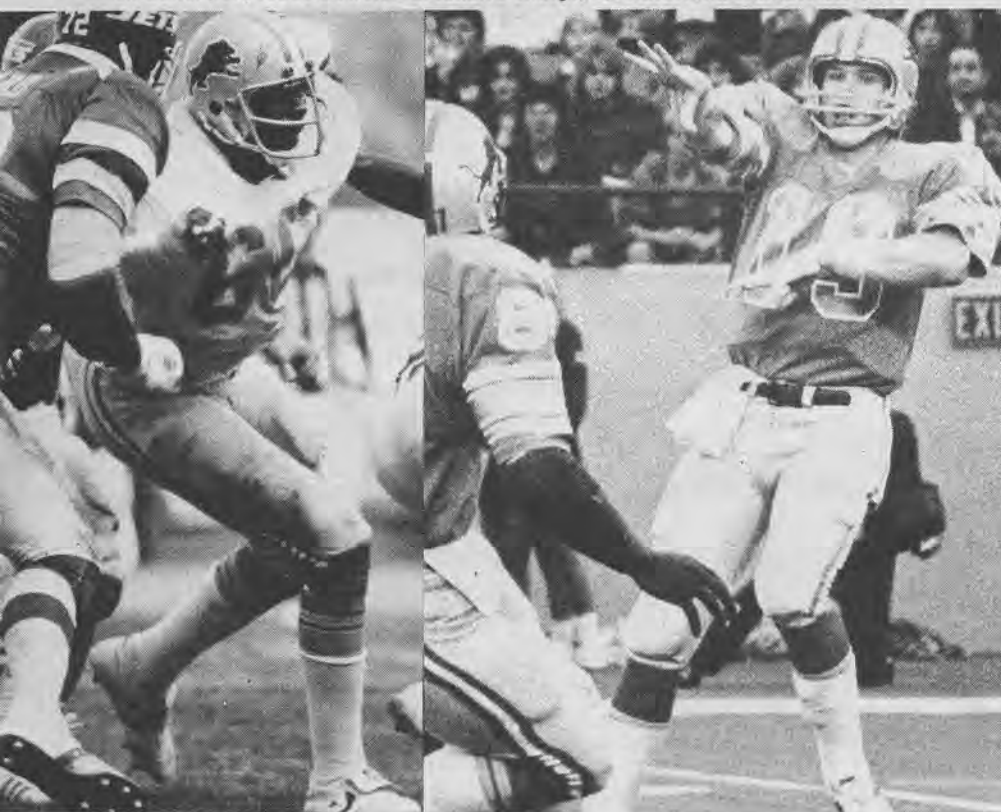
Nevertheless, a receiver earned the honor of most valuable offensive player. Fred Scott caught more passes (62) than any Lion since Pat Studstill set the club record of 67 in 1966. Scott nearly doubled the output of the other two wide receivers combined, Len Thompson and Gene Washington. Washington retired and Thompson will be challenged this year by third-round draft choice Mike Friede of Indiana. John Arnold, starting his second year, led the club in punt returns but did not catch a pass. Hill was the second leading receiver despite his problems. Ulysses Norris, starting his second year, is the only other tight end on the roster and the Lions did not draft any.

Clark, reputedly a specialist in rebuilding offensive lines, certainly has had enough practice at it in Detroit. This year another change is expected if third-round center Tom Turnure of Washington shows enough to beat out Wally Pesuit, who is probably more suited to guard.

At guard, where veteran Russ Bolinger and third-year man Homer Elias start, the Lions spent fifth- and sixth-round draft picks on Tommy Ginn and Chris Dieterich in an effort to find depth. Last year's No. 1 draft choice, Keith Dorney, became a fixture at right tackle and also quickly fit the mold of the stereotypical Lion by punching out his roommate in a little bar-room scuffle during the season. His roommate? The quarterback, of course, Jeff Komlo.

It was nothing serious and this sort of attitude may be what the Lions need, according to defensive end Al Baker, who declared after a 35-7 loss to Chicago: "Next year, I'd like to see us draft a couple of drunks and bums. Those are the kind of guys who bite down on their teeth when things get tough, not like some of the players our team right now."

Al Baker (left) leads Detroit's defensive charge; QB Jeff Komlo directs offense.



Karl Baldischwiler found a home at left tackle and Don Morrison backs up both sides.

On defense, Baker alone is enough to make opponents respect the Lions' pass rush. Despite their horrible season, they finished second in the league in pass defense, third in sacks. Some of this was due to the fact that they finished 25th in run defense, so other teams did not have to pass.

But Baker may be the best pure pass rusher in football. In his two-year career he has compiled 39 sacks for 347 yards in losses. Doug English, who plays next to him, makes the Lions' right side tough to penetrate. English was the defensive MVP. But there are questions on the left side. If Cleveland Elam and John Woodcock come off injured reserve strong, the questions will be answered. Dave Purelory and William Gay are also potential starters.

The Lions had five rookies at linebacker last year and the result was predictable. There were plenty of rookie mistakes. But, on the whole, Ken Fantetti justified his surprisingly high No. 2 draft position and James Harrell and Jon Brooks got plenty of experience, along with Garry Cobb and Eddie Cole. Veterans Charlie Weaver and Dave Washington are coming off the injured reserve list and the Lions added valuable depth and experience with the acquisition of Stan White from the Baltimore Colts. White is one of the smartest players in football, a coach on the field, and could provide immediate stability to the Lion defense.

Although the Lions finished 22d in interceptions, cornerbacks James Hunter and Luther Bradley appear equipped to face the growing challenge of new rules stacked against all defensive players. Nate Allen and Walt Williams are experienced, capable backups who can

play inside or out. Jimmy Allen, Jim Stewart, Tony Leonard, and Dave Parkin will face competition from fifth-round draft choice Mark Streeter for starting safety spots.

Punter Tom Skladany missed 14 games last year with a back injury, but will beat out Larry Swider if healthy. Swider was not bad, averaging 40 yards and having no punts blocked. But every punter would love the advantage of working inside the dome with its one m.p.h. wind.

Benny Ricardo was eight for eight inside 40 yards and two for ten beyond 40 to give the Lions below-par field goal kicking. Return man Arnold was better than average in both punts

LIONS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
40	Allen, J.	DB	6-2	195	28	7	UCLA
47	Arnold, J.	WR	5-10	175	25	2	Wyoming
60	Baker, A.	DE	6-6	260	24	3	Col. St.
76	Baldischwiler, K.	T	6-5	265	25	3	Oklahoma
89	Blue, L.	WR	5-11	180	25	4	Iowa St.
73	Bolinger, R.	G	6-5	250	26	4	Long Beach
27	Bradley, L.	DB	6-2	195	25	3	Notre Dame
53	Brooks, J.	LB	6-2	215	23	2	Clemson
24	Bussey, D.	RB	6-1	195	28	7	Arlington
31	Callicutt, K.	RB	6-0	190	25	3	Clemson
63	Cobb, G.	LB	6-2	210	23	2	USC
50	Cole, E.	LB	6-2	235	24	2	Mississippi
16	Danielson, G.	QB	6-2	195	29	4	Purdue
70	Dorney, K.	T	6-5	265	23	2	Penn St.
72	Elam, C.	DT	6-4	250	28	6	Tenn St.
61	Elias, H.	G	6-3	255	25	3	Tenn St.
78	English, D.	DT	6-5	260	27	6	Texas
57	Fantetti, K.	LB	6-2	230	23	2	Wyoming
65	Fowler, A.	G	6-3	250	24	3	So. Miss.
58	Franks, D.	C	6-1	245	27	5	Michigan
38	Gaines, L.	FB	6-1	230	27	4	Wyoming
79	Gay, W.	DE	6-3	250	25	3	USC
51	Harrell, J.	LB	6-1	215	23	2	Florida
81	Hill, D.	TE	6-2	230	26	5	Texas A&I
28	Hunter, J.	DB	6-3	195	26	5	Grambling
10	Hunter, S.	QB	6-2	205	33	10	Alabama
32	Kane, R.	RB	5-11	200	26	4	San Jose St.
25	King, H.	RB	5-10	205	27	6	Georgia
19	Komlo, J.	QB	6-2	205	24	2	Delaware
26	Leonard, T.	DB	5-11	175	27	4	Va. Union
48	Lewis, E.	DB	6-0	175	27	5	Kansas
	Mohring, J.	LB	6-3	230	24	1	C.W. Post
62	Morrison, D.	C-T	6-5	250	31	9	Arlington
80	Norris, U.	TE	6-4	225	23	2	Georgia
55	O'Neil, E.	LB	6-3	235	28	7	Penn St.
44	Parkin, D.	DB	6-0	190	24	2	Utah St.
43	Patterson, D.	DB	5-11	175	23	2	Ga. Tech
67	Pesuit, W.	G-C	6-4	250	26	4	Kentucky
75	Purelory, D.	DE	6-2	255	31	9	E. Michigan
14	Reed, J.	QB	6-1	190	32	9	Miss. St.
1	Ricardo, B.	K	5-10	170	26	4	San Diego St.
36	Robinson, B.	FB	6-2	225	24	2	W. Texas St.
87	Scott, F.	WR	6-2	180	28	7	Amherst
15	Skladany, T.	P-K	6-0	195	25	2	Ohio St.
46	Stewart, J.	DB	5-11	190	26	4	Tulsa
12	Swider, L.	P	6-2	195	25	2	Pittsburgh
39	Thompson, L.	WR	5-11	190	28	6	Okl. St.
59	Weaver, C.	LB	6-2	225	31	10	USC
	White, S.	LB	6-1	219	31	9	Ohio St.
21	Williams, W.	DB	6-0	185	26	4	New Mex. St.
77	Woodcock, J.	DT	6-3	250	26	4	Hawaii
	Worford, J.	DB	6-2	205	24	1	E. Michigan

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Sims, Billy	RB	6-0	210	25	Oklahoma
3	Turnure, Tom	C	6-3	240	22	Washington
3	Friede, Mike	WR	6-3	205	21	Indiana
4	Hipple, Eric	QB	6-2	198	22	Utah St.
5	Streeter, Mark	DB	6-1	192	21	Arizona
5	Ginn, Tom	OG	6-3	252	22	Arkansas
6	Dieterich, Chris	OG	6-3	256	23	N.C. St.
7	Murray, Ed	K	5-10	175	22	Tulane
9	Jett, DeWayne	WR	6-2	195	22	Hawaii
9	Turner, Tom	DT	6-3	250	21	Hawaii
10	Henderson, Don	DB	5-10	200	22	Utah St.
11	Smith, Wayne	DB	5-11	175	23	Purdue
12	Williams, Ray	RB	5-9	173	21	Washington

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What makes 1980 a tough assignment is the uncertainty of the returning injured, a complete change in defensive philosophy to the 3-4, the notoriously difficult fourth-place schedule, and the loss of No. 1 draft choice Bruce Clark to the Canadian Football League.

Starr passed up the No. 1 quarterback in the draft, Marc Wilson, to land defensive tackle Clark of Penn State, only to see Clark get away. Starr now must hope that either the fourth-year man David Whitehurst or tenth-year man Lynn Dickey is capable of leading the resurgence at quarterback. But is he sure which one?

"This position will prove to be as highly competitive as any on the team," said Starr.

Whitehurst had started 34 consecutive games for the Packers and proved an effective leader. But Dickey played the final three games and threw five touchdown passes, half as many as Whitehurst threw. Dickey's pass rating was 71.5; Whitehurst's was 64.5, good for eleventh in the NFC. The dilemma Starr has to resolve is deciding whether Whitehurst is capable of improving any more or if Dickey can salvage what is left of a once promising career?

David Whitehurst (left) calls the signals for Green Bay offense; James Lofton (below) is his favorite deep threat.

and kickoffs and is helped in the latter by Ken Callicutt.

An integral part of the Lions' history is injuries. The 1979 Lions had 16 players on the injured reserve list at one time or another. Normally, it would be reasonable to assume such bad luck would not visit a team two years in a row. But in the Lions' case, they always seem to have 16 players on injured reserve.

Clark used 28 new players in 1979 after bringing in 31 new people in 1978. Clark had 25 onetime free agents on last year's team. A total of 20 players came to Detroit off waivers from the openings of training camp until the end of the year. No fewer than ten rookies started at least one game for the Lions in 1979. No fewer than five coaches guided the Lions in the decade of the seventies, all with their own forms of rebuilding.

Only three people have endured through all the dark days: Ford, the owner who once tried to sell the Edsel to the American public; Russ Thomas, Ford's caddy; and Joe Fan, who keeps coming back for more of the same.

GREEN BAY PACKERS In the NFC Central, it is much more difficult to pick the last-place team than it is to name the first-place team. They are all so close that it is easy to imagine any of them winning and not really fair to cite one as the loser.

Green Bay can take solace then in the accomplishments of last year's fifth-place pick, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Actually, the fact that Tampa won it in 1979 was almost as difficult for the Packers to accept as their own fourth-place finish.

"We haven't done it yet, and for that I'm embarrassed," said coach-general manager Bart Starr. "I thought it would be very tough, but I

didn't think it would take us this long. I'm disappointed because here we are in our fifth year and Tampa wins the division in their fourth."

Now, here Starr is in his sixth year. Only one coach in the history of pro football was extended more patience than Starr. That was Tom Landry in Dallas. After five years, Landry's record was 18-46-4, a .281 winning percentage. Starr's five-year record in Green Bay is 26-47-1, a percentage of .356.

No other coach in the NFL ever had as poor a record after five consecutive years and returned for a sixth with the same team. Starr was under no fire after his 5-11 record last year and has two years remaining on his contract. He admits it could happen only in Green Bay.

"I want to thank the people who have stayed by us. We have a lot of folks who have rooted extremely hard for us and a lot of very, very loyal and dedicated fans, and for those we are very grateful," said Starr.

"I think he has done everything called of him in connection with his contract," said Dominic Olejniczak, club president. "It's difficult to say everything is fine, great. But we must be honest with ourselves and put ourselves in his position and understand the obstacles and injuries."

In Green Bay, where Starr himself did not become the established quarterback until his fifth season, the good citizens understand the virtue of patience. They are content to wait longer than the average fan. After all, where else can they turn? The Packers are the only game in town.

Consider, for instance, the career of Green Bay center Larry McCarren, who will be starting his eighth year as a Packer.

"We believe that Larry is fast surfacing as one of the outstanding centers in the game," said Starr. Fast is a relative word.



Whitehurst has improved his percentage of completions each season, but still throws many more interceptions than touchdown passes. That has been one of Dickey's shortcomings, too, but last year, he threw only four interceptions in 119 attempts.

Whoever ends up playing, the No. 1 target remains wide receiver James Lofton. The fluid 6-3 Lofton caught 100 passes in his first two seasons and is a cinch to draw double coverage every time he lines up.

The Packers' problem at wide receiver is finding someone to complement Lofton. Regular Aundra Thompson, hampered by a leg injury most of the year, caught 25 balls, but was not as effective as he was in 1978. Consequently, Lofton's touchdown catches dropped from six to four. The Packers have used Ron Cassidy, Walter Tullis, and Bobby Kimball at wide receiver, but have not come up with the burner to take the pressure off Lofton.

Fortunately, the emergence of Paul Coffman at tight end has kept defenses from concentrating on Lofton exclusively. Coffman did not catch a pass as a rookie in 1978, but led NFC tight ends in catches last year with 56. "I don't know of anyone who has played better in his second year, considering the little training he had," said Starr.

Coffman caught four touchdown passes and proved more than a one-dimensional tight end with some devastating blocking. "Paul blocked as well as any tight end in the league," said receiver coach Lew Carpenter. John Thompson starts his second year as Coffman's backup.

The make-or-break spot of the Packers is running back. It can be feast or famine depend-

ing on how four players recover from the surgeon's knife.

Last year's rookies, Eddie Lee Ivery and Steve Atkins are both coming off knee surgery, as is veteran fullback Barty Smith. Terrell Middleton, a 1,000-yard rusher in 1978, is coming off shoulder surgery. Middleton led the rushers with 495 yards despite his problem. The Packers finished the season with Eric Torkelson and Ricky Patton starting.

Ivery's recovery is crucial. Like his fellow rookie at Minnesota, Ted Brown, Ivery came into the league with a reputation at least as big as that of O.J. Anderson. He led the Packers in both rushing and receiving in pre-season games before going down after three carries in the season opener.

Another injury that affected the Packer running attack (21st in the league) was an ankle problem suffered by left tackle Mark Koncar, the team's best offensive lineman. He was subpar all year and is expected to provide a big boost to a young and promising group. Greg Koch has developed nicely at right tackle and Derrel Gofourth, Leotis Harris, and Mel Jackson are dependable guards, although Starr drafted guard-tackle types in the third, sixth, and seventh rounds, indicating a desire for more depth. Tackle Tim Stokes is an experienced blocker and center McCarren really has come a long way from 1973, when he was a twelfth-round draft choice.

It is the defensive line that will be watched with the most interest in Green Bay this year. Can ends Mike Butler and Ezra Johnson shake nagging injuries and return to the form that made them perhaps the best young bookends



Green Bay fullback Barty Smith

in the business? More intriguingly, can they adapt to the 3-4 defense being instituted by new coordinator John Meyer?

Johnson, who had 20 quarterback sacks in 1978, was out six weeks with a sprained ankle. Butler was hindered by a dislocated elbow all year. Bob Barber is a good third end who saw plenty of action last year.

The exit of No. 1 draftee Clark is a tremendous blow to the new defensive plans, not to mention to the morale of the team and support

The Packers' Paul Coffman led all NFL tight ends in receptions with 56, good for over 700 yards and 4 touchdowns in 1979.



1979 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

SCORING—Birney, 28 points on 7 field goals and 7 PAT's and Marcol, 28 points on 4 field goals and 16 PAT's tie 48th
RUSHING—Middleton, 131 carries for 495 yards, 3.8 avg., 2 TD's 20th
PASSING—Whitehurst, 179 of 322 attempts for 2247 yards, 10 TD's 11th
RECEIVING—Coffman, 56 receptions for 711 yards, 12.7 avg., 4 TD's 11th
INTERCEPTIONS—Gray, 5 for 66 yards, 13.2 avg., 11th
PUNTING—Beverly, 69 punts, 40.4 avg., longest 65 yards 4th
PUNT RETURNS—Gray, 13 for 61 yards, 4.7 avg., 18th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Thompson, 15 for 346 yards, 23.1 avg., 1 TD 18th

PRE-SEASON GAMES

August 2 San Diego (Canton)
9 At Dallas (N)
16 BALTIMORE (N)
23 At Buffalo
30 DENVER (N)

1980 SCHEDULE

September 7 CHICAGO
14 DETROIT
21 At Los Angeles
28 DALLAS
October 5 CINCINNATI
12 At Tampa Bay
19 At Cleveland
26 MINNESOTA
November 2 At Pittsburgh
9 SAN FRANCISCO
16 At NY Giants
23 At Minnesota
30 TAMPA BAY
December 7 At Chicago
14 HOUSTON
21 At Detroit

1979 SCORES

14-15
24-16
—
—
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3-21
—
19-7
—
21-27
10-21
3-6
18-13



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of the fans. The Packers did not hesitate to make Clark the first defensive lineman taken in the draft and the fourth choice overall, despite a knee injury that prematurely ended Clark's college career.

Clark did not particularly relish the largely sacrificial role of the nose tackle, and all Starr can hope now is that third-year veteran Terry Jones, one of last year's starting tackles, can adapt to nose tackle as well.

PACKERS VETERAN ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE
59	Anderson, John	LB	6-3	221	24	3	Michigan
32	Atkins, Steve	HB	6-0	216	23	2	Maryland
70	Barber, Robert	DE	6-3	240	28	5	Grambling
75	Barzilauskas, Carl	DT	6-6	265	28	7	Indiana
11	Beverly, David	P	6-2	180	29	7	Auburn
19	Birney, Tom	K	6-4	220	23	2	Michigan
77	Butler, Mike	DE	6-5	265	25	4	Kansas
88	Cassidy, Ron	WR	6-0	175	22	2	Utah St.
82	Coffman, Paul	TE	6-3	218	23	3	Kansas St.
10	Dickey, Lynn	QB	6-4	220	30	10	Kansas St.
53	Douglass, Mike	LB	6-0	224	25	3	S. Diego St.
	Engles, Ricky	P	5-11	170	25	1	Tulsa
57	Goforth, Derrel	G	6-3	260	24	4	Okl. St.
24	Gray, Johnnie	FS	5-11	185	26	6	Fullerton
51	Gueno, Jim	LB	6-2	220	26	5	Tulane
69	Harris, Leotis	G	6-1	267	24	3	Arkansas
	Hedberg, Randy	QB	6-3	200	25	2	Minot St.
38	Hood, Estus	DB	5-11	180	24	3	Ill. St.
55	Hunt, Mike	LB	6-2	240	23	3	Minnesota
40	Ivery, Eddie Lee	HB	6-1	210	22	2	Ga. Tech.
71	Jackson, Mel	G	6-1	267	25	6	USC
99	Johnson, Charles	DT	6-1	262	22	2	Maryland
90	Johnson, Ezra	DE	6-4	240	24	4	Mor. Brown
39	Johnson, Sammy Lee	FB	6-1	226	27	7	No. Carolina
63	Jones, Terry	DT	6-2	259	23	3	Alabama
85	Kimball, Bob	WR	6-1	190	23	2	Oklahoma
68	Koch, Greg	T	6-4	265	24	4	Arkansas
79	Koncar, Mark	T	6-5	268	26	5	Colorado
42	Landers, Walt	FB	6-0	214	26	3	Clark
72	Lathrop, Kit	DT	6-5	253	23	2	Ariz. St.
80	Lofiton, James	WR	6-3	187	23	3	Stanford
46	Luke, Steve	S	6-2	205	26	6	Ohio St.
13	Marcol, Chester	K	6-0	190	30	9	Hillsdale
78	Merrill, Casey	DE	6-4	255	22	2	Cal-Davis
34	Middleton, Terrell	HB	6-0	195	24	4	Memphis
54	McCarren, Larry	C	6-3	238	28	8	Illinois
29	McCoy, Mike C	DB	5-11	183	26	5	Colorado
62	McLaughlin, Joe	LB	6-1	235	22	2	Mass.
56	Nuzum, Rick	C	6-4	238	27	4	Kentucky
30	Patton, Ricky	HB	5-11	189	25	3	Jackson St.
58	Rudzinski, Paul	LB	6-1	220	23	3	Mich. St.
36	Sampson, Howard	DB	5-10	185	23	3	Arkansas
61	Simmons, Davie	LB	6-4	218	23	2	No. Carolina
48	Simpson, Nate	HB	5-11	190	25	4	Tenn. St.
33	Smith, Barty	FB	6-4	240	27	7	Richmond
76	Stokes, Tim	T	6-5	252	29	7	Oregon
89	Thompson, Aundra	WR	6-0	186	27	4	E. Tex. St.
83	Thompson, John	TE	6-3	228	23	2	Utah St.
47	Thorson, Mark	DB	5-10	188	24	2	Ottawa (KS)
26	Torkelson, Eric	HB	6-2	200	28	7	Connecticut
87	Tullis, Walter	WR	6-0	170	26	3	Delaware
20	Turner, Wylie	DB	5-10	182	22	2	Angelo St.
21	Wagner, Steve	DB	6-2	208	25	4	Wisconsin
52	Weaver, Gary	LB	6-1	225	31	8	Fresno St.
65	Wellman, Mike	C	6-3	253	23	2	Kansas
17	Whitehurst, David	QB	6-2	204	24	4	Furman
	Williams, Jack	LB	6-4	225	23	2	Bowl. Green
50	Wingo, Rich	LB	6-1	230	23	2	Alabama
74	Young, Steve	T	6-8	264	26	4	Colorado

DRAFTEES

RD	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	COLLEGE
1	Clark, Bruce	DT	6-2	255	22	Penn. St.
1	Cumby, George	LB	6-1	215	23	Oklahoma
2	Lee, Mark	DB	5-11	187	22	Washington
3	Kitson, Syd	G	6-4	252	21	Wake Forest
4	Nixon, Fred	WR	5-11	191	21	Oklahoma
6	Swanke, Karl	T/C	6-6	251	22	Boston Coll.
7	Aydelete, Buddy	T	6-4	250	23	Alabama
8	Smith, Tim	S	6-1	194	22	Oregon St.
9	Saalfeld, Kelly	C	6-3	246	24	Nebraska
10	White, Jafus	S	6-1	195	23	Texas A&I
11	Skiles, Ricky	LB	6-2	220	22	Louisville
12	Stewart, James	DB	5-11	186	23	Memphis St.

"I thought the play of Terry Jones at the end of last season was as strong as that of any tackle in the league," said Starr.

The Packers' commitment to the 3-4 was solidified with their second draft pick in the first round, Oklahoma linebacker George Cumby. Small at 5-11, 210, Cumby is an outstanding athlete suited to an outside role in the 3-4. He will challenge Mike Douglass. The Packers hope John Anderson can shake the effects of two breaks of the same arm in two years to assume the other outside spot. Last year's seventh-round rookie find, Rich Wingo, is an outstanding inside linebacker and will be teamed with Gary Weaver or Michael Hunt.

The Packers' third draft choice, the 34th player taken, is cornerback Mark Lee. If Lee cannot beat out either Mike McCoy or Estus Hood for a starting spot, and neither position is particularly weak, he will contribute as a nickel back and punt returner. The safeties are hard-hitting team leaders Johnny Gray, also recovering from an ankle injury, and Steve Luke.

Tom Birney will challenge veteran Chester Marcol for the place-kicking job after hitting seven of nine when Marcol was hurt. David Beverly finished fourth in the NFC in punting and Aundra Thompson is a good kickoff-return man, but the Packers are counting on rookie Lee to improve their 27th-place ranking in punt returns.



Johnnie Gray (left), Steve Luke of GB



Packer running back Terrell Middleton



Ex-Oklahoma LB George Cumby was Packers' second draft choice in round one.

HALL OF FAME

revised top
20 rankings

A large black and white photograph of Tommy Tarkenton, a former NFL quarterback, in action. He is wearing a New York Jets uniform with the number 10 on his jersey. He is holding the football with both hands and looking forward. In the background, another player in a Jets uniform with the number 52 is visible.

TARKENTON

A smaller black and white photograph of Tom Staubach, a former NFL quarterback, in action. He is wearing a Dallas Cowboys uniform with the number 12 on his jersey. He is holding the football with both hands and looking forward. The background is blurred.

STAUBACH

Roger Staubach of the Dallas Cowboys, who won the National Football League's individual passing championship in his eleventh pro campaign in 1979, also moved to the No. 1 all-time spot among those passers who performed only in the NFL.

Staubach's surge marked the major change during the 1979 season in the Pro Football Hall of Fame's top twenty passing rankings.

Hall of Famer Otto Graham still leads the all-time rankings with an 86.8 point score. Without his four years in the All-America Football Conference, however, Graham's point score falls to 78.1, leaving him in tenth place in the NFL-only listings.

Staubach, following his 92.4 rating season in 1979, jumped almost two full points in his career ranking. His new 83.5 lifetime mark moves him ahead of Sonny Jurgensen (82.8) and Len Dawson (82.6), both of whom once led the standings.

Two other passers in the Top Twenty, Ken Stabler of the Oakland Raiders and Ken Anderson of the Cincinnati Bengals, also once led the NFL-only rankings. Stabler, whose raised his career score slightly from 79.8 to 79.9 in 1979, now ranks No. 8. Anderson also improved slightly from 78.9 to 79.1 in 1979 and now ranks No. 9.

Besides Staubach's jump from fourth place to second place in the all-time standings, the injury-plagued Bert Jones of the Baltimore Colts provided the only other top twenty movement in 1979, but it was a slight downward slide from 81.2 to 80.3 points. He thus dropped from fifth place into a sixth-place tie with the retired Pro Football Hall of Famer Bart Starr. Fran Tarkenton (80.5), who retired in 1979 after 18 seasons with the Minnesota Vikings and New York Giants, edged into Jones's vacated fifth-place spot.

The Miami Dolphins' Bob Griese and Greg Landry, Jones's backup at Baltimore, both were active throughout the 1979 season, but neither moved in the standings. Griese's career score dropped from 77.4 to 77.0, but he retained his twelfth-place ranking. Landry wound up with the same 73.6 career score that he had to start the season and also remained in nineteenth place in the career ratings.

LEADING PASSERS

minimum 1500 attempts

Rank	Player	Yrs.	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Rating Points
1.	Otto Graham	10	2626	1464	23,584	174	135	86.8
2.	Roger Staubach	11	2958	1685	22,700	153	109	83.5
3.	Sonny Jurgensen	18	4262	2433	32,224	255	189	82.8
4.	Len Dawson	19	3741	2136	28,711	239	183	82.6
5.	Fran Tarkenton	18	6467	3686	47,003	342	266	80.5
6T	BERT JONES	7	1592	890	11,435	78	56	80.3
6T	Bart Starr	16	3149	1808	24,718	152	138	80.3
8.	KEN STABLER	10	2481	1486	19,078	150	143	79.9
9.	KEN ANDERSON	9	2785	1570	20,030	125	101	79.1
10.	Johnny Unitas	18	5186	2830	40,239	290	253	78.2
11.	Frank Ryan	13	2133	1090	16,042	149	111	77.7
12.	BOB GRIESE	13	3329	1865	24,302	186	168	77.0
13.	Norm Van Brocklin	12	2895	1553	23,611	173	178	75.3
14.	Sid Luckman	12	1744	904	14,686	137	132	75.0
15.	Don Meredith	9	2308	1170	17,199	135	111	74.7
16.	Roman Gabriel	16	4498	2366	29,444	201	149	74.5
17.	Y. A. Tittle	17	4395	2427	33,070	242	248	74.4
18.	Earl Morrall	21	2689	1379	20,809	161	148	74.2
19.	GREG LANDRY	12	2204	1227	15,383	95	96	73.6
20.	Frank Albert	7	1564	831	10,795	115	98	73.5

ACTIVE PLAYERS IN CAPS. PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME MEMBERS IN ITALICS.

Career leadership among the top forward passers is determined by a mathematical formula based on quality of performance, rather than quantity, in four different categories: percentage of completions, percentage of touchdowns, percentage of interceptions, and average yards per attempt.

Active passers in caps.

TOTAL PASSES ATTEMPTED

1. Fran Tarkenton	6467
2. Johnny Unitas	5186
3. John Hadl	4687
4. Roman Gabriel	4498
5. John Brodie	4491
6. Y.A. Tittle	4395
7. Norm Snead	4353
8. JIM HART	4279
9. Sonny Jurgensen	4262
10. George Blanda	4007
11. Joe Namath	3762
12. Len Dawson	3741
13. Bobby Layne	3700
14. Charley Johnson	3392
15. Babe Parilli	3330
16. BOB GRIESE	3329
17. Bart Starr	3149
18. CRAIG MORTON	3083
19. Jack Kemp	3073
20. Sammy Baugh	2995

TOTAL PASSES COMPLETED

1. Fran Tarkenton	3686
2. Johnny Unitas	2830
3. John Brodie	2469
4. Sonny Jurgensen	2433
5. Y.A. Tittle	2427
6. Roman Gabriel	2366
7. John Hadl	2363
8. Norm Snead	2276
9. JIM HART	2159
10. Len Dawson	2136
11. George Blanda	1911
12. Joe Namath	1886
13. BOB GRIESE	1865
14. Bobby Layne	1814
15. Bart Starr	1808
16. Charley Johnson	1737
17. Sammy Baugh	1693
18. Roger Staubach	1685
19. CRAIG MORTON	1627
20. Bill Kilmer	1585

TOTAL TOUCHDOWN PASSES

1. Fran Tarkenton	342
2. Johnny Unitas	290
3. Sonny Jurgensen	255
4. John Hadl	244
5. Y.A. Tittle	242
6. Len Dawson	239
7. George Blanda	236
8. John Brodie	214
9. Roman Gabriel	201
10T Norm Snead	196
10T Bobby Layne	196
12T Sammy Baugh	186
12T BOB GRIESE	186
14. JIM HART	177
15. Babe Parilli	176
16. Otto Graham	174
17T Norm Van Brocklin	173
17T Charley Conerly	173
17T Joe Namath	173
20. Charley Johnson	170

TOTAL YARDS PASSING

1. Fran Tarkenton	47,003
2. Johnny Unitas	40,239
3. John Hadl	33,513
4. Y.A. Tittle	33,070
5. Sonny Jurgensen	32,224
6. John Brodie	31,548
7. Norm Snead	30,797
8. Roman Gabriel	29,444
9. JIM HART	29,208
10. Len Dawson	28,711
11. Joe Namath	27,663
12. George Blanda	26,920
13. Bobby Layne	26,768
14. Bart Starr	24,718
15. Charley Johnson	24,410
16. BOB GRIESE	24,302
17T Norm Van Brocklin	23,611
18. Otto Graham	23,584
19. Roger Staubach	22,700
20. Babe Parilli	22,681

The big news in the Pro Football Hall of Fame's top twenty rushing rankings during the 1979 season centered on the following two items.

First, O.J. Simpson, who for many years was considered to be the best bet to eventually overtake the all-time career rushing leader, Jim Brown, apparently won't ever be No. 1 after all. Second, Walter Payton of the Chicago Bears, who made a headlong dash from out of the top twenty all the way to a No. 8 spot at the end of the 1979 season, joins the Pittsburgh Steelers' Franco Harris as a legitimate threat for the lifetime rushing record.

Overall, there was more movement among the top twenty rushers than in any other section of the Hall.

The incomparable Jim Brown, with 12,312 yards in just nine seasons, has led the lifetime rankings since the early 1960's. Simpson, in his eleventh pro season in 1979, did move over the 11,000-yard mark, but his retirement in December will keep him 1,076 yards short of Brown's awesome total.

Payton, however, totaled 1,610 rushing yards in 1979 to run his career mark to 6,926 yards after just five seasons. His pace of 1,385 yards per season is even better than Brown's 1,368 yards per campaign. Thus, at this tempo, Payton would pass Brown in his ninth season, four years from now.

Like Payton, Harris has been amassing yards at a pace that, if continued, would put him ahead of Brown in four more years. Harris, with an average of 1,070 yards per season, now shows 8,563 yards in eight NFL seasons. He gained 1,186 yards in 1979, marking the seventh time in eight years he has gone over the 1,000-yard mark.

Simpson, who spent nine years with the Buffalo Bills before winding up with the San Francisco 49ers, is the only other long-term player to average more than 1,000 yards per season. O.J., who holds the all-time single-season mark of 2,003 yards gained, averaged 1,021 yards in his pro football tenure.

John Riggins of the Washington Redskins also was a big gainer in 1979. He rushed for 1,153 yards to run his career mark to 6,822 and improve his position in the top twenty from nineteenth place to No. 9.

LEADING RUSHERS

Rank	Player	Yrs.	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
1.	<i>Jim Brown</i>	9	2359	12,312	5.2	106
2.	<i>O.J. Simpson</i>	11	2404	11,236	4.7	61
3.	<i>Joe Perry</i>	16	1929	9723	5.0	71
4.	<i>Jim Taylor</i>	10	1941	8597	4.4	83
5.	FRANCO HARRIS	8	2012	8563	4.3	72
6.	LARRY CSONKA	11	1891	8081	4.3	64
7.	Leroy Kelly	10	1727	7274	4.2	74
8.	WALTER PAYTON	5	1548	6926	4.5	59
9.	JOHN RIGGINS	9	1666	6822	4.1	42
10.	John Henry Johnson	13	1571	6803	4.3	48
11.	LYDELL MITCHELL	8	1668	6518	3.9	30
12.	Floyd Little	9	1641	6323	3.8	43
13.	Don Perkins	8	1500	6217	4.1	42
14.	LAWRENCE MCCUTCHEON	8	1435	6186	4.3	23
15.	Ken Willard	10	1622	6105	3.8	45
16.	CALVIN HILL	10	1447	6049	4.2	42
17.	CHUCK FOREMAN	7	1529	5879	3.8	52
18.	Larry Brown	8	1530	5875	3.8	35
19.	Steve Van Buren	8	1320	5860	4.3	69
20.	Bill Brown	14	1649	5838	3.4	52

ACTIVE PLAYERS IN CAPS. PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME MEMBERS IN ITALICS

For the second straight year, Harold Jackson of the New England Patriots provided the only movement in the Pro Football Hall of Fame's top twenty pass receiving rankings.

Jackson's 45 receptions in his twelfth NFL season moved him all the way from a fourteenth-place tie with Pete Retzlaff into ninth place in the all-time rankings.



Jackson has 497 career receptions. In 1979, he moved ahead of Retzlaff, Boyd Dowler, Art Powell, Jackie Smith, Hall of Famer Don Hutson, and Tommy McDonald. If he should match his 1979 pace in 1980, he would jump ahead of Billy Howton and Bobby Mitchell and into a sixth-place tie with Lance Alworth, another Hall of Famer. Alworth grabbed 542 passes in 11 seasons.

Jackson was the only active player among the top twenty receivers in 1979, but it is highly possible that there will be two or three new faces in the elite group after the 1980 season. Of those players active in 1979, Harold Carmichael of the Philadelphia Eagles and Bob Tucker of the Minnesota Vikings now have 407 career catches, while Haven Moses of the Denver Broncos is close behind with 395 receptions.

Carmichael, who now has caught at least one pass in a still continuing record string of 112 games, had 52 receptions in 1979. A duplicate performance in 1980 would push Carmichael into fifteenth place in the all-time rankings. Tucker had only 24 receptions in 1979, but even a repeat of that total in 1980 would move him into the top twenty.

The same is true for Moses, who had a career-high 54 receptions in 1979. Another 54 catches in 1980 would move him well into the top twenty. Houston's Ken Burrough (377 catches), San Diego's Lydell Mitchell (374), and Cleveland's Reggie Rucker (368) all are long shots to make the top twenty with good seasons in 1980.

In four other career receiving categories, the leaderships remain unchanged. They include: Reception Yardage—Don Maynard, 11,834; Average Gain per Catch—Paul Warfield, 20.1 yards; Average Receptions per Season—Lionel Taylor, 63*; and Touchdown Receptions—Don Hutson, 99. (*While Taylor played ten pro seasons, he played as a wide receiver only nine seasons.)

LEADING RECEIVERS

Rank	Player	Yrs.	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
1.	Charley Taylor	13	649	9110	14.0	79
2.	Don Maynard	15	633	11,834	18.7	88
3.	Raymond Berry	13	631	9275	14.7	68
4.	Fred Biletnikoff	14	589	8974	15.2	76
5.	Lionel Taylor	10	567	7195	12.7	45
6.	Lance Alworth	11	542	10,266	18.9	85
7.	Bobby Mitchell	11	521	7954	15.3	65
8.	Billy Howton	12	503	8459	16.8	61
9.	HAROLD JACKSON	12	497	8840	17.8	70
10.	Tommy McDonald	12	495	8410	17.0	84
11.	Don Hutson	11	488	7991	16.4	99
12.	Jackie Smith	16	480	7918	16.5	40
13.	Art Powell	10	479	8046	16.8	81
14.	Boyd Dowler	12	474	7270	15.4	40
15.	Pete Retzlaff	11	452	7412	16.4	47
16.	Roy Jefferson	12	451	7539	16.7	52
17.	Carroll Dale	14	438	8277	18.9	52
18T	Paul Warfield	13	427	8565	20.1	85
18T	Mike Ditka	12	427	5812	13.6	43
20.	Bobby Joe Conrad	12	422	5902	14.0	38

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Although there were five active players among the top twenty lifetime pro football point makers in 1979, there was relatively little position changing after the results of the last campaign were tabulated.

In the top twenty scoring, Lou Groza ranks No. 2 on the all-time list because of his four years in the AAFC, which gave him a career total of 1,608 points. In NFL play only, he scored only 1,349 points, a total that would leave him in fifth place, behind Fred Cox (1365), Jim Bakken (1380), the still active Jim Turner (1,439), and, of course, George Blanda, the all-time leader with 2,002 points in his 26 seasons of NFL and AFL play.

Turner, in his sixteenth pro campaign in 1979, managed only 71 points, but that was enough to move him into third place on the all-time list ahead of Jim Bakken, who retired before the 1979 season began.

The biggest gainer was Don Cockroft of the Cleveland Browns. With 89 points during the season, he upped his career total to 993 points and moved from twelfth place ahead of the still active Garo Yepremian and Sam Baker and Lou Michaels into ninth place on the all-time list. Both Baker and Michaels are retired.

Yepremian, a long-time mainstay of the Miami Dolphins, was dropped by the Dolphins just before the start of the regular campaign, but he quickly hooked on with the New Orleans Saints, with whom he scored 75 points. With 983 career points, Garo ranks No. 10 on the top twenty list.

Jan Stenerud of the Kansas City Chiefs scored 64 points in 1979 and passed the 1,200-point mark. However, his 1,231-point total leaves him in sixth place in the career rankings. Roy Gerela, cut by the Pittsburgh Steelers, played briefly with the San Diego Chargers, scoring just nine points. With 903 points, he remains in thirteenth place.

No new names were added to the top twenty in 1979, although Tom Dempsey, in a brief early season stint with the Buffalo Bills, scored 11 points and reached the 729-point level for his career. He just failed to reach the No. 20 spot, where the retired Tom Davis, with 738 points, holds forth.

Mark Moseley of the Washington Redskins had a productive 114-point season and his current 691-point career total makes him a strong bet to advance well into the top twenty in 1980.

LEADING SCORERS

Rank	Player	Yrs.	TD	XP	FG	Total
1.	George Blanda	26	9	943	335	2002
2.	Lou Groza	21	1	810	264	1608
3.	JIM TURNER	16	1	521	304	1439
4.	Jim Bakken	17	0	534	282	1380
5.	Fred Cox	15	0	519	282	1365
6.	JAN STENERUD	13	0	394	279	1231
7.	Gino Cappelletti	11	42	350	176	1130
8.	Bruce Gossett	11	0	374	219	1031
9.	DON COCKROFT	12	0	393	200	993
10.	GARO YEPREMIAN	12	0	407	192	983
11.	Sam Baker	15	2	428	179	977
12.	Lou Michaels	13	1	386	187	955
13.	ROY GERELA	11	0	351	184	903
14.	Bobby Walston	12	46	365	80	881
15.	Pete Gogolak	10	0	344	173	863
16.	Errol Mann	11	0	315	177	846
17.	Don Hutson	11	105	172	7	823
18.	Paul Hornung	9	62	190	66	760
19.	Jim Brown	9	126	0	0	756
20.	Tom Davis	11	0	348	130	738

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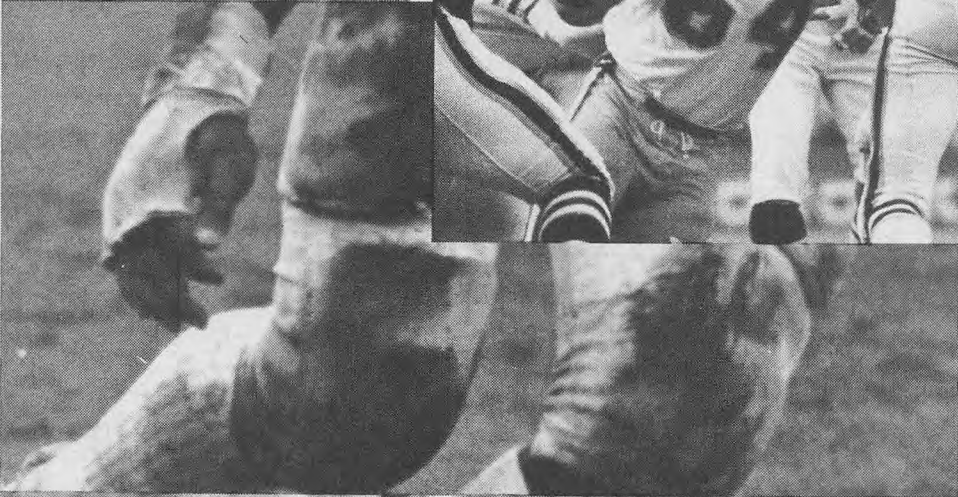
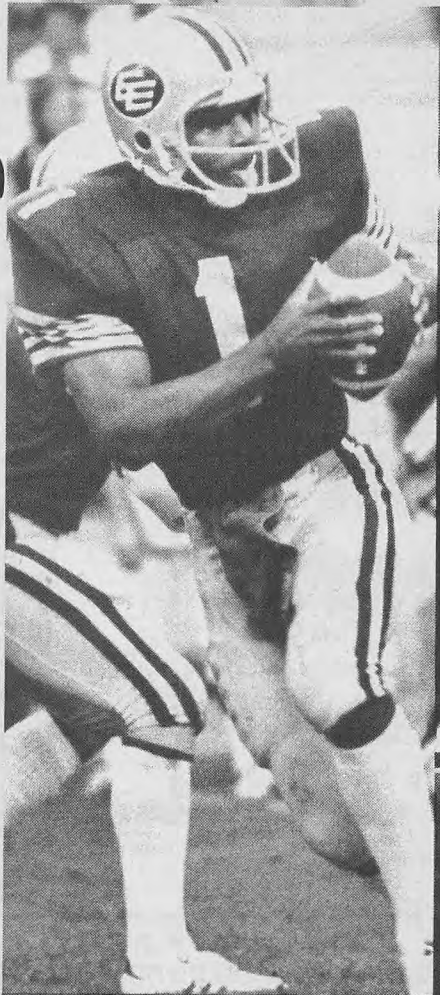
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Canadian Football League



The Canadian Football League will be looking with more than casual interest at the activities in the Dallas Cowboys training camp at Thousand Oaks, California, this summer. In particular, it'll be keeping a close watch on the quarterbacking situation, where the Cowboys will be choosing a successor to the retired Roger Staubach. Danny White, who served a five-year apprenticeship as Staubach's backup, is expected to move up to the No. 1 position, while Glenn Carano, the No. 3 man for four seasons, steps up a notch to the No. 2 slot.

A Canadian, Jamie Bone from the University of W. Ontario, could end up as the No. 3 pivot, and there has been some early indication that he could even oust Carano in the battle for the No. 2 job. The CFL's interest in Bone, however, is not so much patriotic fervor as the concern that his success with the vaunted Cowboys could cause a further weakening of its position in support of the unique designated-import rule.

For the average American football fan, who finds the Canadian game strange enough with its longer and wider field, three downs instead of four, and 12 men per side rather than 11, a description of the unusual designated-import rule is obviously necessary.

Each CFL club is allowed to carry 15 imports (Americans) on its 34-man roster. It's not as unorthodox a rule as the CFL will lead its critics to believe since the Japanese baseball league has a quota on American players and hockey leagues throughout Europe limit the number of Canadian imports. Even the North American Soccer League has a rule calling for three North American players to be on the field at all times.

The designated import rule, however, is unique to the CFL. It calls for each club to appoint one of its 15 Americans as the designated import (DI). This player can play any position and enter the game at any time, but the man he replaces cannot go back in for the remainder of the contest. The exception is when the DI is the backup quarterback. The two import quarterbacks can replace each other as often as the coach dictates.

The rule was enacted in 1970 to insure that each team carried two quality—meaning, American—quarterbacks. However, Bone's success with the Cowboys will support the contention of the rule's opponents that a Canadian can be a quality quarterback and only the DI rule is preventing him from getting the chance to prove it.

In 1978, less than seven months after he had won the Hec Crighton Trophy—the Canadian equivalent of the Heisman Trophy—as the outstanding player in Canadian college

football, Bone was given not much more than a passing glance at the Hamilton Tiger-Cat training camp. In fact, he wasn't even given a playbook when he arrived in camp a few days late because of stalled contract negotiations.

Bone contended that the Ticats had failed to give him a fair opportunity to gain employment because of the DI rule and took his case before the Ontario Human Rights Commission. The Commission agreed he had been treated unfairly by the Tiger-Cats and ordered the club to pay the University of Western Ontario graduate \$10,000 and give him another opportunity to make the team at this year's training camp.

The 24-year-old Bone took the money, but declined the tryout stating that to go to a CFL camp while the designated import rule was still on the books would be a violation of his



The Grey Cup—symbol of excellence

principles. Instead, he decided to continue his fight against the DI rule to the Canadian Human Rights Commission. The case is still being investigated.

In the meantime, Bone's case attracted the attention of former Dallas Cowboy running back Craig Baynham, now a clergyman in London, Ontario. Baynham helped Bone get in touch with the Cowboys, who, after viewing films of his play at Western and having a scout work him out, signed him to a contract.

The rejection of another Hec Crighton Trophy winner, Scott Mallender of the University of Windsor, by the Toronto Argonauts this spring even before he had a chance to display his skills at training camp further raised the ire of Canadian college coaches who threatened to sever their ties with the CFL. Even the politicians got into the act.

Federal labor and sports minister Gerald Regan said he would have the rule investigated to see if it is legal and even suggested he might put a restriction on American players coming to Canada if the CFL did not revoke the DI rule. CFL commissioner Jake Gaudaur remains adamant that the DI rule is not discriminatory and has agreed to meet Regan "any time anywhere" to discuss the matter.

Coaches around the league have different thoughts on the effect of the rule on their hiring or not hiring a Canadian quarterback.

Hugh Campbell, head coach of the Grey Cup champion Edmonton Eskimos, feels that having a Canadian as a backup quarterback is an advantage because he would have the luxury of a player who could play two or three positions available on the sidelines. However, he insists he'd play his best available quarterbacks regardless of nationality because of the importance of the position.

"The Canadian, generally, has an advantage over the American at all positions except quarterback," said Campbell. "You'll go with a Canadian defensive tackle who's not quite as good as the American simply because you have to have ten Canadians among your 24 starters. But at quarterback the Canadian clearly has to be better than the American to win a job. You have to go with your best because the rest of your offense is only as good as your quarterback."

Ottawa Rough Rider assistant coach Bob O'Billovich, an American who played in the CFL and later coached at the University of Ottawa, feels a team does not get maximum use of its 34-man roster when it employs a Canadian as the backup quarterback. He feels this makes coaches apprehensive about selecting even the slightly more talented Canadian over his U.S. counterpart.

If a team uses a Canadian quarterback and the DI at another position, when the DI enters the game the player he replaces is through for the afternoon and the team finds itself with 33 rather than 34 players, says O'Billovich. And if the backup quarterback is the DI he can at least be used to hold the ball on converts and field goals, thus making some use of all 15 imports. If he's a DI at another position, he might not get into the game at all.

Even if a club uses a Canadian starting quarterback, the DI rule can cause complications. Ron Lancaster, now head coach at Saskatchewan, was one of the league's best quarterbacks for 16 seasons with the Roughriders. Although American-born, he played in the CFL as a Canadian and the Riders in most years employed an import as his backup.

"There were times when I would have liked to have come out of a game to catch my breath and clear my head after taking a hard hit," he said. "But I couldn't because if the backup, who was the DI, went into the game, he had to remove an import at some other position and that guy couldn't go back in even if I went back into the game."

There is no doubt that the designated import rule, whether good or bad for the CFL game, has provided material for debate. And further fuel will be added to the fire if Bone succeeds in winning a job with the Cowboys this summer.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

EDMONTON (12-2-2) The initial reaction is that you'd like to have Hugh Campbell's job as head coach of the Eskimos going into the

Canadian standouts (clockwise from upper left): Edmonton quarterback Warren Moon; former Penn State All-America tackle Bruce Clark, now with Toronto; Eskimos' premier wide receiver Waddell Smith; Dave Fennell, defensive tackle from Edmonton and the CFL's outstanding Canadian player; former NFL great Fred Biletnikoff, the newest Alouette; and defensive tackle Ed McAleney of the Calgary Stampeders.

1980 season. The Eskies should make their fourth straight Grey Cup appearance come November 23 and could well make it three victories in a row. Campbell, however, insists the job facing the Eskimos coaching staff and players could be the most difficult in the league.

"Our challenge as players and coaches is even greater than in other places because we've set such high standards," Campbell insists. "We have to improve to maintain our momentum. We have to work hard all the time. If we lose our desire to improve, we'll start losing those close games."

There may not be too many close games for Campbell to worry about, however. The Eskimos didn't lose anyone to retirement during the winter. The only player from the Grey Cup team who won't be back is linebacker Carl Crennell. Obtained late last season from Montreal, where he had lost his job to rookie Tom Cousineau, Crennell was traded to Hamilton this spring for Harry Walters (Maryland), who played at Winnipeg before going to Ticats last year. Walters will join Dan Kepley (East Carolina) as the inside linebackers in Eskimos' "34" defense. Canadians Tom Towns and Dale Potter should again hold down the outside jobs.

Up front, David Boone (Eastern Michigan) and Robin Estay (Louisiana State) along with Dave Fennell (North Dakota), who was named the outstanding Canadian player in the league last year, form a formidable defensive line. Jimmy Walker (Arkansas) will be after Estay's job after seeing spot duty last season.



Junior Ah You (left) of Montreal confronts Edmonton's Jim Germany

Campbell expects competition will be hot-test in the defensive secondary, where the five incumbents, especially the four imports, will receive a stern test from several outstanding newcomers. But Larry Highbaugh, who is entering his eighth season, showed no signs of slowing down on the corner last year despite reaching the 30-year-old plateau. He tied for the league lead in interceptions with Ottawa's Mike Nelms, each with ten. Joe Hollimon (Arkansas State) handles the other corner with equal skill although he doesn't get as much notoriety as the flamboyant Highbaugh.

Ed Jones (Rutgers) and Gregg Butler (Howard) were the safeties along with rover Pete Lavorato, a Canadian. Butler declared he wanted to be traded East and "retired" during training camp. If he follows through with his threat, his replacement will come from among Maurice Burton (Michigan State), Michael McLeod (Montana State), or Jerome Stanton (Michigan State), three newcomers on whom Campbell is quite high.

Offensively, the Eskimos return a better than average line, which Campbell feels is young enough to develop into one of the outstanding units in the CFL. Mike Wilson (Dayton), who came to Edmonton last year in a trade with Hamilton and would up being named the league's outstanding offensive lineman, is the only import on the line. He's solidly entrenched at left tackle. Canadians man the other four spots where second-year man Leo Blanchard will be challenging for a starting job.

Waddell Smith (Kansas) capped a strange personal year as the West's nominee as the CFL's outstanding player. He lost out in the final balloting to David Green of Montreal. Smith was traded to Hamilton prior to last year's training camp when his contract negotiations with the Eskimos reached a stale mate. However, the Eskimos got him back before the season started and he went on to perform as the league's most prolific receiver with 74 catches for 1,214 yards.

Smith heads a receiving corps so deep in talent that former Washington Redskin Brian Fryer (University of Alberta) couldn't crack the lineup. Brian Kelly (Washington State), the league's rookie-of-the-year, was the Eskimos' prize unveiling. He was second to Smith in receptions with 61 for 1,098.

Warren Moon's bright performance in the

Grey Cup game was an indication that he's ready to step into the No. 1 quarterbacking role. The former Rose Bowl hero for Washington has been brought along slowly by Campbell and appears set to take over from 37-year-old Tom Wilkinson, provided Wilkie is ready to move over. Edmonton signed Temple University's Brian Broomell in the off-season. He's expected eventually to be Moon's partner at quarterback. Veteran pivot Bruce Lemmerman (San Fernando State), who spent all of last season as an assistant coach, was traded to Hamilton for fullback Neil Lumsden.

Jim Germany (New Mexico) ran for more than 1,000 yards again last season and remains the club's main ball carrier.

Dave Cutler will do the place-kicking for the twelfth year, with Hank Ilesic again handling punting chores.

CALGARY (12-4-0) The Stampeders were rolling along nicely towards their destination—the Western Conference championship—last season when, as general manager Jack Gotta says, they "hit an open switch" in Edmonton.

The steadily improving Stamps had finished two points back of the defending Grey Cup champion Eskimos over the regular season and gone on to defeat the B.C. Lions in the semifinal match. But then in the Western final at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, the hopes of the Stampeders fans were derailed by the Grey-Cup-bound Eskimos.

Gotta, who has relinquished the coaching portfolio to concentrate on his GM chores, and his successor, Ardel Wiegandt, face the task of getting the Stampeders back on the track to resume their pursuit of the Eskimos in 1980. However, they must also be aware of the B.C. Lions and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, who will be chasing them from improved positions.

Gotta's recruiting program during the winter concentrated on upgrading his wide receiver corps and the middle linebacker spot and supplying competition for incumbent import running backs Willie Burden and James Sykes. He was also aware that all-star cornerback Alvin Burleson (Washington) had played out his option and was seeking to move on to the NFL.

Burleson eventually signed with the New Orleans Saints, but Gotta had signed Rickey Smith (Tulane) and Kevin Hunt (Southeast Missouri State) as possible replacements. As well, he was expected to give wide receiver Kelvin Kirk (Dayton) a long look as a defensive back.



Defensive back Ken Hinton of the British Columbia Lions (top) and offensive tackle Nick Bastaja, now a Winnipeg Blue Bomber

Even with the departure of Burleson, who had nine interceptions last season, the Stampeder secondary remains strong with veterans Ray Odums (Alabama), Terry Irvin (Jackson State), Robert Sparks (San Francisco State), and Canadian Merv Walker.

The Stampeders will line up with a new middle linebacker, probably former Tampa Bay Buccaneer Earl Inmon (Bethune-Cookman), following the decision by Gotta not to renew the contract of veteran Ollie Bakken (Minnesota), who started at that position the last four seasons.

Gotta is satisfied with the progress made by both his offensive and defensive lines, young units which he started to build on his arrival in Calgary in 1977. That's reflected in the fact that only two imports were recruited for each line during the off-season.

All-Canadian end Reggie Lewis (San Diego State), entering his fourth season, anchors the defensive front four with Ed McAleney, considered by many to have had an even better 1979 season than Lewis, moving from tackle to the other end. Ken Dombrowski (Cameron State) returns at one tackle, with Ronnie Pagett (Louisiana State) and James Curry (Nevada-Reno) battling for the other spot if Wiegandt can find room for four import defensive linemen.

The extra import could come from the defensive line, where only Mike Horton, who joined the club for the last six games of the 1979 campaign, is an American. All-Canadian

Lloyd Fairbanks, who attended Brigham Young, and center Tom Krebs (Utah) lead the strong contingent of Canadians who man the offensive line.

The departure of quarterback John Hufnagel (Penn State) to Saskatchewan after playing out his option and becoming a free agent, leaves Ken Johnson (Colorado) as the No. 1 pivot, with Bruce Threadgill (Mississippi State) the likely backup.

Gotta was intent on securing a wide receiver who could also double as a kick-return threat and he may have found that person in Leo Lewis III, the son of Leo Lewis II, the famed Lincoln Locomotive of the great Winnipeg Blue Bomber teams of the late fifties and early sixties.

Wiegandt will also be looking at Ron Robinson (Utah State), Willie Reed (Wisconsin-Superior), and Dave Versteg (Augustana). Kirk, of course, will join the fray if he doesn't make the switch to defense.

Willie Armstead (Utah) returns as the slot back, while Canadian veteran Tom Forzani (Utah State), who led the Stamps with 58 receptions for 761 yards, will continue to hold down the other wide receiver spot.

Willie Burden (North Carolina State), who was named the league's outstanding player in 1975 when he set the single-season rushing record of 1,896 yards, has been well below that standard the past two seasons. And although he recently signed a series of new one-year pacts, he'll be hard-pressed to

retain his job. James Sykes emerged as the team's new running star two years ago when he ran for 1,024 yards, but he slipped to 703 yards last season. Attempting to oust that pair will be Delmer Jones (Montana State) and William Miller (Ouachita Baptist). Rob Forbes, a Canadian who went to Drake, will get an opportunity to start at fullback, thus freeing another import.

Mike McTague, a Toronto native who attended North Dakota State, will handle the punting, J.T. Hay the place-kicking.

WINNIPEG (4-12-0) The Blue Bombers won five fewer games last season than they did in 1978, head coach Ray Jauch's first term at the Winnipeg helm. As a result Jauch and Bomber general manager Earl Lunsford were the most active duo on the CFL trade market in the off-season, swinging three major deals.

The trades were designed to strengthen what Jauch conceived as the club's two main weaknesses: the offensive and defensive lines. Swap No. 1 saw the Bombers obtain veteran Canadian offensive tackle Nick Bastaja from the Toronto Argonauts along with Canadian running back Mark Bragagnolo in exchange for defensive lineman Leon Lyskiewicz, offensive tackle John Malinosky, and linebacker Duncan MacKinlay.

The two teams dealt again a few weeks later with the Bombers getting defensive lineman Ecomet Burley (Texas Tech) in ex-

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change for Canadian Bart Evans, who subsequently announced his retirement and left Toronto shortchanged in the transaction.

The third trade brought All-Canadian guard Larry Butler (Appalachian State) to Winnipeg from Hamilton, along with the rights to Canadian wide receiver Tom Cudney, who is trying to gain a job with Kansas City Chiefs, for kicker Bernie Ruoff (Syracuse). Ruoff led the CFL in scoring last season with 151 points, but an off-season conviction for possession of a small amount of marijuana put him in disfavor with the Bomber front office and it was a matter of time before he was traded.

The addition of Butler and Bastaja, along with Bobby Thompson (Kansas State), who joined the club late last season, and veterans Butch Norman and John Bonk gives Jauch a much improved offensive line.



Linebacker Tom Cousineau of Montreal

Working behind that line will be veteran quarterback Dieter Brock (Jacksonville State), who'll be backed up by two young newcomers: Mike Rieker (Lehigh) and Jim Krohn (Arizona). Rieker had a tryout with New Orleans Saints in 1978. Harry Knight, who was Brock's reliever for several seasons, and former Baltimore Colt Bill Troup were not invited back.

A major blow to the Bombers and, particularly, their quarterbacks last year was the training camp injury to wide receiver Joe Poplawski, the CFL's rookie-of-the-year in 1978. He missed all but the last two games in 1979 after catching a league-leading 75 passes in his freshman year. The return of Poplawski and the development of Walt Passaglia, who snared 51 passes as a rookie last season, give the Bombers two fine Canadian receivers.

Jauch will be looking for a speedy deep-threat receiver from among holdovers Mike Holmes, who caught 60 passes for 1,034 yards last year, and Rick House and rookies Eugene Goodlow (Kansas State) and Larry Willis (Alcorn State).

Jim Washington gained 918 yards last season, the first time in four years that he has been below the 1,000-yard plateau. And from

the number of running backs recruited in the off-season it appears that Washington will be pushed to retain his job. The newcomers included Earl Carr (Florida), Mike Harris (Arizona State), Mack Green (Kansas State), Robert Lee Johnson (N.E. Louisiana), and Chris Cobb (Eastern Illinois). The acquisition of Bragagnolo would seem to indicate that Jauch plans on using a Canadian at fullback, thus forcing Richard Holmes (Edinboro State), a former 1,000-yard rusher with Ottawa, to running back.

Ecomet Burley, an all-star with Toronto before an Achilles tendon injury caused him to sit out the entire 1978 season, and John Helton, who was named the CFL's top defensive performer last season, give the Bombers a formidable left side to the defensive line.

Billy Howard returns to face competition from Clifton Alapa, (previously with Montreal and Hamilton), former Dallas Cowboy and Seattle Seahawk Dave Kraayeveld (Milton), Joe Bell (Norfolk State), and Jeff Henry (Louisville).

Jauch might yet be tempted to go to a "34" defense with holdover James Reed (Cal-Berkely) and rookie Randy Scott (Clemson) playing the inside linebacker positions.

The defensive secondary appears much more stable than it was even midway through last season. Jauch feels this will go a long way towards curing his defensive woes.

With Ruoff gone, Passaglia, becomes the second member of his family to handle the place-kicking chore in the CFL. Brother Lui handles both the place-kicking and punting duties for the B.C. Lions.

BRITISH COLUMBIA (9-6-1) The B.C. Lions embarked on a rebuilding program in 1977 and it was significantly successful that year as they produced a 10-6 record and tied Edmonton for first place in the Western Conference. Since then, however, the Lions have made little progress. If anything, in fact, they've slipped backward a step or two. The injury bug has been the main culprit.

Injuries scuttled the team's continued development in 1978 and the Lions dropped to a 7-7-2 record and out of the play-offs. They appeared to have rebounded successfully last year when they sported a 6-1-1 record at the halfway point in the season. But then veteran quarterback Jerry Tagge (Nebraska) went out with a knee injury and the Lions won only three of their final eight games.

That injury now appears to have ended Tagge's career since he failed to pass his physical examination prior to the opening of training camp and was placed on waivers. Even before Tagge, a five-year performer with the Green Bay Packers before coming to B.C. in 1977, took his physical there was concern about his future. The Lions sought the services of John Hufnagel (Penn State), who played out his option with Calgary. However, the Lions lost out in the bidding to Saskatchewan.

Lions' head coach Vic Rapp had named sophomore Joe Paopao (Long Beach State) as his No. 1 quarterback when Tagge's career appeared to be in doubt.

"The starting job is his to keep or lose, regardless of how Tagge's knee progresses," said Rapp early in the spring. Paopao, however, may not have anyone to lose the job to even if he doesn't prove awesome at training camp. On the eve of camp, the Lions had Roy DeWalt



Saskatchewan's coach, Ron Lancaster

and Don Knott battle for backup job.

The quarterbacking situation won't be Rapp's only problem going into this season. The retirement of 11-year veteran offensive tackle Larry Watkins (Western Kentucky) has prompted Rapp to look at his entire offensive line.

"We led the league in holding penalties last year," he said. "And when you're holding, it means you're getting beat."

To try to solve that problem the Lions signed five new offensive linemen. Four of them have had several years of pro experience.

We didn't create the competition for jobs that we should have in training camp last year," Rapp explained. "The guys came out of camp figuring they had it made. We also brought in a lot of college guys last year, but didn't have any success. I feel now that you need experienced people along the offensive line."

Booker Brown (USC), a six-year NFL veteran; Tom Humphrey (Abilene Christian), seven years in the NFL; Don Gordon (Lamar); and Everett Little (Houston) will push for jobs against veteran Frank Landy (North Dakota) and third-year man Jim Lohmann (Texas-El Paso) at the tackle spots. Al Wilson is firmly entrenched at



The Alouettes incomparable David Green

center, but Rapp will have to find a replacement for Watkins at the left guard spot.

Rapp's other major problem is in the defensive secondary, where only Ken Hinton (San Diego State) appears to be on solid footing. Veteran Joe Fourqurean (Bluefield State), Devon Ford (Appalachian State), Frank Oliver (Kentucky State), and Tyron Gray (Washington) will get strong competition from ten newcomers including Thomas Douglas (Delaware State), Mitchell Elliott (William Penn), Tim Pies (S.W. Missouri), and David Brown (San Jose State).

The Lions obtained Tony Proudfoot from Montreal in a swap for Doug Carlson. He should

strengthen the secondary at free safety.

Rapp also signed six new linebackers, among them Blake Whitlatch (Louisiana State), Curtis Townsend (Arkansas), and Willie Blackwell (Morris Brown College) to battle for a position where only Canadian Glen Jackson is sure of holding his job.

Larry Key (Florida State) and John Henry White (Louisiana Tech) will continue to provide an exciting 1-2 running attack, with Leon Bright (Florida State) and tight end Harry Holt (Arizona) presenting excellent targets for Paopao. Lui Passaglia's kicking is an area with which Rapp won't have to be concerned.

SASKATCHEWAN (2-14-0) The situation is plain and simple to Roughrider head coach Ron Lancaster. The 'Riders must escape the Western Conference cellar or face a lot of disgruntled fans in the province and plenty of empty seats at Taylor Field.

"We've got to get out of last place or we'll lose our credibility with the fans," said Lancaster, who spent 16 seasons in the green uniform of the Roughriders as one of the CFL's premier quarterbacks before retiring at the end of the 1978 season. A few weeks later he was named the club's new head coach.

Lancaster's baptismal as a head coach was a disaster. Burdened with a talent-thin club which had won just four games and lost 11 in 1978, Lancaster watched in horror and disgust from the sidelines as the Roughies lost 12 straight games before finally scoring their first victory of the year—a surprising 26-25 upset of the Grey Cup bound Edmonton Eskimos. There were few other consolations for Lancaster.

Just a few days before the 1979 training camp was due to open, Lancaster filled the large vacancy created by his own retirement when he obtained quarterback Tom Clements from the Ottawa Rough Riders. But Clements, who was playing out his option in order to try the NFL (he signed this year with Kansas City), couldn't make a winner out of the sad sack 'Riders and after eight straight losses was mercifully traded to Hamilton, which he led into the Eastern play-offs.

This season the 'Riders outbid the Ticats and B.C. Lions for the services of veteran John Hufnagel (Penn State), who had played out his option in Calgary. With Danny Sanders (Carson (Newman) as the backup, the 'Riders will enter the season solid at quarterback.

Whom they'll throw to, however, is another question, one that has Lancaster concerned. In fact, Lancaster felt the wide receiver position was such a critically weak area that he went out and recruited ten candidates in the off-season.

Joey Walters (Clemson), who caught 40 passes last season for 772 yards, had played out his option and was still unsigned as training camp approached. Among the candidates for the two wide receiver spots that will be manned by imports are Mike Quintella (Louisiana State), Frank Henry (Utah), Tim Gaines (Sanders's favorite receiver at Carson Newman), and Curtis Henderson (Morgan State).

Veteran Canadian Steve Mazurak is coming off a knee operation. If he's fully recuperated, he'll move into slotback position along with Gerry Felner and rookie Jeff Neal, from St. Mary's University.

Mike Strickland fell back to 770 yards on 176 carries last season after leading the CFL in rushing the previous season with 284 carries

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for 1,306 yards. He was traded during training camp to Hamilton. His replacement will come from among imports Harlan Huckleby (Michigan), Willie Wilder (Florida), and Alvin "Skip" Walker (Texas A & M).

Riders have a young offensive line with Canadians possibly holding down four of the five spots. Veteran Joe Miller (Villanova) will get a battle for what could be the lone import job from Nate Henderson (Florida State), Wiley Barnes (Alabama), and Ken Helms (Georgia).

Lancaster is hoping that the Canadians can do the job on the defensive line as well in order to free imports for the wide receiver and defensive-back spots. Veteran Wayne Smith and Doug McIver, along with Bryan Illerbrun and Al Johns, will compete for three of the four jobs, with import Mike Samples (Drake) getting strong competition from rookie Mike DeGenova (Boston), who played a fifth year of college ball at St. Mary's University in Halifax last year.

Besides improving the wide receiver position, Lancaster considered the upgrading of the defensive secondary his biggest chore. Last season the opposition completed 56.7 percent of its passes against Saskatchewan, the highest percentage in the West. To try and lower that figure, Lancaster has recruited 15 defensive backs, including Karl McCoy (Penn State), Joe Callan (Ohio), Lavon James (Louisiana Tech), Martin Mitchell (Tulane), Gary Harris (Arizona), and Scott Mielke (Western Illinois).

EASTERN CONFERENCE

MONTREAL (11-4-1) Just when the Alouettes appeared to have one problem straightened out up popped a couple of others to make life interesting—or hectic if you're general manager Bob Geary or head coach Joe Scannella—in Montreal.

The Alouettes shocked the National Football League and, in particular, the Buffalo Bills a

year ago when they lured No. 1 draft pick Tom Cousineau north of the border with a lucrative contract. However, by the time the All-America from Ohio State agreed to terms the CFL season was under way and veteran Carl Crennell was entrenched at middle linebacker. Thus, Cousineau spent 11 games at outside linebacker until the Als finally came to grips with the unsuitable arrangement and shipped Crennell to the Edmonton Eskimos. Cousineau responded to the change back to his natural position by being named the outstanding defensive player in the Grey Cup game, even though the Als were beaten 17-9 by the Eskimos.

With Cousineau anchoring the defense and the league's most outstanding player of 1979, David Green, supplying the offensive power, the Als appeared to be a settled club ready to return to the Grey Cup game.

However, it turned out that Green was anything but enchanted with his financial arrangements and at one point asked to be traded, a request that was promptly refused by Geary. Green's existing contract called for the right to renegotiate the pact if he won the Schenley Award in 1979. However, the renegotiation talks broke down with the player and management far apart. A disgruntled Green reported to training camp, under the terms of the existing agreement, but then "retired" in an attempt to force management's hand.

Dissatisfaction was voiced by other Alouette players at the news the team had signed former Oakland Raider Fred Biletnikoff, one of the NFL's all-time great receivers but now 37 years old and out of football in 1979. The feeling was that Biletnikoff would not have signed cheaply with the Als and that money could have been better used to sign a younger player.

However, Scannella defended his decision to hire Biletnikoff, whom he had coached at Oakland, and to trade receiver Bob Gaddis to Hamilton, by pointing out that the Alouette receivers had dropped too many passes last season. Scannella added that Biletnikoff never had any speed to lose to advancing age, but his catching ability was as sound as ever.

Keith Baker (Texas Southern), who joined the Als as a defensive back a year ago and was converted to wide receiver, will likely retain the other WR spot.

Joe Barnes (Texas Tech) enters his fifth season at quarterback with Ron Calcagni (Arkansas), who is beginning his second year with the club, the likely backup pivot, although the Als were attempting to recruit others to compete for the position.

The offensive line, which provided Green with superb blocking last season, should remain stable, although incumbent import tackles Dan Yochum (Syracuse) and Doug Payton (Colorado) will be pushed by Larry Pohl (Miami).

Junior Ah You (Arizona State) and Glen Weir will be back for their ninth seasons along with 12-year veteran Gord Judges to form the heart of the defensive line. Sophomore Tony Petrucio will likely move in as a starter at the other defensive end, while rookie Canadian Doug Scott, who attended Boise State, battles Gabriel Gregoire and Ed Szpytma for the backup job.

Cousineau and veteran Canadian Wally Buono hold down two linebacking jobs, with Willie Hampton the other outside linebacker.

Randy Rhino, the fierce-tackling free safety and superb punt returner, is healthy again after

missing six games, the Eastern final, and the Grey Cup last year with a knee injury. He'll be welcomed back to a secondary that consists of veteran Dickie Harris (South Carolina), Jim Burrow (Nebraska), and Canadians Larry Uteck and Doug Carlson, who was obtained in a trade with the B.C. Lions that saw Tony Proudfoot move to the West Coast. Jim Marshall, who replaced Rhino in the lineup, played out his option and likely won't be back. Thus, Scannella will be seeking a cornerback from among Keith Credit (Kent State), Steve Jackson (Louisiana State), and others.

Don Sweet, who won the Eastern scoring title with 111 points, returns for his ninth season to handle the kicking chores.

OTTAWA (8-6-2) In 1978, when the Ottawa Rough Riders finished first in the East, they possessed the stingiest defense in the Canadian Football League. Last season, as they slipped to second place, they gave up 54 more points than they had the previous season.

Now with the defense having been further eroded by the defection of cornerback Mike Nelms (Baylor) and safety Larry Brune (Rice) to the NFL, the unexpected retirements of Canadian defensive tackle Brian Hedges and import defensive end Mike Fanucci (Arizona State), and a serious ankle injury suffered by defensive tackle Mike Raines (Alabama State) in a basketball game, head coach George Brancato faces a major rebuilding chore. Brancato must also come up with a capable backup to No. 1 quarterback Condredge Holloway.

Nelms, who played out his option while gaining All-Canadian status by snaring ten interceptions and establishing a CFL record for yards gained (1,155) on punt returns, joined the Washington Redskins. The hard-hitting Brune, who had four interceptions, signed with the Minnesota Vikings.

Brancato will have Ken Downing (Missouri), a devastating tackler who missed nine games last season with injuries, back in the secondary, along with Canadian Peter Crepin. But he'll have to count on rookie Canadian Glenn Cook, who started on the corner for two seasons at the University of Richmond, to step into a starting job and hope that second-year pro Jonathan Sutton (New Mexico), who joined the team late last year, can do the same thing. Newcomers looking for jobs in the secondary include Greg Gordon (Wisconsin) and Reg Calvin.

Canadian Jim Piaszkowski returns as the only member of last year's front four. Malcolm Inglis will probably step into Hedges's spot, while imports Greg Marshall (Oregon State) and Rich Tuten (Clemson) lead the rush for the other two positions.

The Riders' linebacking unit remains strong with Ron Foxx (Alabama A&M), who had outstanding year in 1979, a fixture on the left side. Veteran Ray Nettles (Tennessee) will get strong competition for the middle linebacking job from Billy Banks (Penn State), an off-season acquisition from Hamilton. Canadians Tim Berryman, Rick Sowieta, and John Galsford will fight it out for the other job.

Offensively, Brancato can't go without a capable backup for Holloway, who officially missed just one game last year, but was forced to play under severe pain in several other contests or watch from the sidelines as Jimmy Jones handled the offense. Jones, who just couldn't do a consistent job in relief, has been



Defensive end Mike Fanucci of Ottawa

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released and Brancato is hoping that a replacement can be found from among Charlie Weatherbie (Oklahoma State), Jordan Case (North Texas State), and Steve Grant (Washington State). Canadian Scott Mallender, the outstanding collegian in the country last season at the University of Windsor, has also been signed as a quarterback, but will be primarily used as a backup defensive back or receiver.

The offensive line should be in better shape than it was a year ago with the return of guard Jeff Turcotte, who was injured on the first day of the 1979 camp and missed the entire season. Center Donn Smith should also be more effective after surgery to correct ligament damage in his knee. Val Belcher (Houston), who was a standout in his rookie season, large Wes Phillips, who joined the club late in the year, and Jim Coode, the league's outstanding offensive lineman two years ago, round out the line.

Martin Cox, who came to Riders midway through the season from the New England Patriots, was named the East's rookie of the year. But he could be hard pressed to retain his job against Steve Coury, a tough 5-9 receiver from Oregon.

Richard Crump (N.E. Oklahoma), who played six games as a Rider after being obtained from Calgary, heads a set of running backs that also includes Ron Harris (Colorado State). Canadian Mike Murphy was hampered by injuries that cut his effectiveness at fullback. He'll be challenged by Jim Reid, an impressive sophomore pro obtained from Hamilton.

Jerry Organ handles the kicking.

TORONTO (5-11-0) Another season, another head coach, and continued dreams for Argonaut fans that this will finally be the year when the Boatmen put it together. The Argos haven't put it together since 1971, the last time they went to the Grey Cup game, the CFL championship which they haven't won since 1952.

It's Willie Wood's turn this year to try to break what has become a spell of ineptitude surrounding the Argonauts. The former All-Pro defensive back with the Green Bay Packers is the fifteenth head coach since 1952 and the eight since 1971, when they lost the Grey Cup game to Calgary on a late fumble.

Wood takes over from Forrest Gregg, who opted out after just one year of a three-year contract in order to accept the head coaching chores with the Cincinnati Bengals. Wood, who was the defensive backfield coach under Gregg, immediately began to tackle the problems that he felt contributed to the club's last-place finish a year ago.

Promising to give Toronto fans exciting football in 1980, Wood set out to add speed to almost every position. He came up with four major signings in quarterback Jimmy Streater (Tennessee), middle linebacker Danny Bass (Michigan State), and wide receivers Calvin Muhammad (Texas Southern), and Terry Greer (Alabama State).

Streater will push former Kansas City Chief Tony Adams for the first-string job and at worst will probably share the position in a dual quarterback system employed successfully by Edmonton and Ottawa (when they had Tom Clements). At six feet and 165 pounds, Streater would not likely have been drafted by the NFL as a quarterback. Thus when the Argos ap-



Former NFL superstar Terry Metcalf, now in his third season with Argonauts

proached him with the opportunity to play that position he jumped at the order.

Adams, who moved to the CFL last year after four seasons as the No. 3 pivot in Kansas City, did not impress Wood all that much despite an excellent pass-completion percentage. Wood felt that Adams was too preoccupied at times with that percentage figure rather than with trying to get the offense across the goal line.

Bass was another player who looked at his size and decided he had a better future in the CFL. Although his six foot, 215-pound statistics make him "small" by NFL standards, he's a tough hitter with the quickness necessary to get to the sidelines on the wider Canadian field.

Muhammad and Greer are expected to give the Argos the deep, sure-handed pass threat they lacked last season. Canadian Dwight Edwards, who has the speed, but had difficulty hanging onto the ball, will move in at slotback to replace Mike Harris (Kansas State), who has since joined Gregg at Cincinnati.

Terry Metcalf, the former NFL superstar, enters his third season with the Argos, never having been given the opportunity to utilize his best assets. Wood plans to give him that chance this season. Metcalf will carry the ball less and see more action as a receiver out of the backfield. That should put him in one-on-one situations where his quickness will put him in good stead.

Former Dallas Cowboy Doug Dennison (Kutztown State) will handle the heavy sledding inside and will be called upon as a receiver in Wood's pass-oriented attack.

Wood is also hoping to go with an All-Canadian offensive line, which would leave imports Mike Obrovac (Bowling Green) and Bruce

Kimball (Massachusetts) out of work.

Defensively, the Argos scored a major coup three days into training camp when they lured All-America tackle Bruce Clark of Penn State, the No. 1 draft choice of the Green Bay Packers, north of the border. He'll step into the position vacated when Ecomet Burley (Texas Tech) was traded to the Winnepeg Blue Bombers. The 6-3, 270-pound Clark is the second first-round NFL pick in as many years to reject the NFL in favor of a CFL contract. A year ago, Montreal talked Tom Cousineau into coming to Canada.

Among the other newcomers seeking jobs on the defensive line are Norman Goodman (Missouri), Harrell Oliver (Florida A&M), and Dennis Johnson.

Perennial all-star Jim Corrigan, a Canadian who played at Kent State, will hold down one defensive end spot while serving his first term as an assistant coach.

Wood thought his biggest problem in the secondary would be to replace cornerback Eric Harris, considered by many as the best in the CFL. He played out his option and signed with Kansas City. But just two days before the opening of camp, safety Mike Kramer (Alabama) announced his retirement, leaving another gaping hole in the secondary. Bill Bryant (Grambling), Jay Faulkner (North Carolina), Derrick Martin (San Jose State), and former Montreal Alouette Bobby Hosea (UCLA) are among the leading candidates there.

Ian Sunter, who had brief flings with the Buffalo Bills, Detroit Lions, and L.A. Rams, will continue to handle the kicking chores.

HAMILTON (6-10-0) It could prove to be a long, hot summer for the Tiger-Cats. Not only did they lose out in their bid to retain the services of star quarterback Tom Clements (Notre Dame), but on the day training camp opened sophomore pivot Eddie Smith was forced to retire because of a recurring arm ailment.

Thus the Ticats opened training camp with sophomore Dave Marler (Mississippi State), journeyman Craig Juntunen, former Dallas Cowboy Clint Longley, and rookie Steve Tousches (Rhode Island). But suddenly on the third day of camp, the Ticats swung a deal that brought them veteran Bruce Lemmerman from the Edmonton Eskimos. Lemmerman, 33, spent nine years with Edmonton but was hurting during the 1978 training camp and lost his job to Warren Moon. He did not play in a league or play-off game in two years and is admittedly rusty.

Marler, who was injured last year, blossomed at camp and was handed the No. 1 job. As a result, the Ticat quarterbacking picture went from gloom to sunshine in a matter of a few days.

The Ticats have probably the finest pass catching corps in the East with Leif Pettersen, the top receiver in the conference last season with 56 catches for 838 yards, leading the way. He's joined by Gord Paterson, 53 receptions for 692 yards, John Holland, a late arrival from the Buffalo Bills who had 37 catches for 582 yards, veteran Brock Asynsley, and now Bob Gaddis (Mississippi Valley State), obtained from Montreal.

Running back Ronnie Rowland (Washington) caught 37 passes (420 yards) and picked up 814

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yards rushing on 179 carries. However, Rufus Crawford (Virginia State) filled in for the injured Ruoff on the final game of the schedule and showed enough ability to gain the starting assignment in the semifinal game, even though Rowland was healthy. The two were joined in camp by Mike Strickland.

The Ticats gave up a lot when they sent all-star guard Larry Butler (Appalachian State) to Winnipeg in order to acquire kicker Bernie Ruoff. However, Ticat head coach John Payne felt he had to pay the price to obtain the Western Conference's leading scorer of 1979 with 150 points. Payne is confident that newcomer Tyrone McGriff (Florida A&M) can be more than an adequate replacement for Butler. The Ticats also bolstered their reserve strength along the line when they picked up Canadian Ray Honey, who attended Drake University, from Ottawa.

With the acquisition of Ruoff, a Canadian who went to Syracuse, veteran Zenon Andrusyshyn, who played seven seasons with Toronto and then a year with Kansas City, was traded back to Toronto.

Defensively, Payne was dissatisfied with the pass rush from his front four. He set out to rectify that problem with off-season acquisitions.

Bob Rozier (California-Berkeley), a ninth-round draft pick of the St. Louis Cardinals in 1979, is expected to line up at one defensive end, while Angelo Wells, who returned to the Ticats after an unsuccessful bid to catch on with the Washington Redskins, will battle former B.C. Lion Drew Taylor (San Jose State) for the other end. Eleven-year veteran Jim Heighton and sophomore pro Linden Davidson, both Canadians, should emerge as the tackles.

The Ticats acquired Carl Crennell from the Eskimos in a trade for Harry Walters, who spent most of last season on the injury list, and the former Montreal star will be the middle line-backer, flanked by the CFL's top defensive player of 1979, Ben Zambiasi (Georgia), and seasoned Canadian Lou Clare.

The Ticats lost safety Zac Henderson to the Cincinnati Bengals, but the blow was cushioned by the acquisition of Jerry Anderson, who was the Bengals' fourth-round pick in the 1977 draft. Anderson came to Hamilton late last year after being dropped by Tampa Bay, but pulled a hamstring muscle and was not activated.

Newcomer Marvin Switzer (Kansas State), a late cut of the Buffalo Bills, could challenge incumbent Al Dorsey for the other safety spot, while another former Bill, Kent Davis, could push Harold Woods at one cornerback spot. David Shaw will remain as the other corner.

NEW AMERICAN IMPORTS (and Canadians who attended U.S. schools)

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS

Anthony Armstrong, TE, E. New Mexico; Willie Blackwell, LB, Morris Brown; Booker Brown, OT, USC; David Brown, DB, San Jose State; Kevin Cole, RB, San Jose State; Johnnie Donahue, DE, Texas A&M; Dodie Donnell, FB, Nebraska (Lincoln); Thomas Douglas, DB, Delaware State; Mitchell Elliott, DB, William Penn; Don Gordon, WR, Lamar; Donnie Hickman, OG, USC; Tom Humphrey, OT, Abilene Christian; James Ladd, LB, Central St. Ohio; Everett Little,

OG, Houston; Daryl Mills, WR, Vanderbilt; Russ Pope, RB, Purdue; Tim Ries, DB, S.W. Missouri State; Larry Riley, DB, Salem College; Hughie Shaw, RB, Texas A&I; Leo Sloan, RB, Linfield College; Marcus Starling, WR/DB, Tennessee; Curtis Townsend, LB, Arkansas; Blake Whillatch, LB, LSU; Randy Williamson, WR, Tennessee State; Don Henderson, DB, Utah State.

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

James Curry, DE, Nevada-Reno; Tim Gillespie, OG, North Carolina State; Pat Healy, RB, Colgate; Kevin Hunt, DB, Southeast Missouri; Earl Inmon, LB, Bethune-Cookman; Delmer Jones, RB, Montana State; Leo Lewis Jr., WR, Missouri; William Miller, RB, Ouachita Baptist; Bob O'Gara, OL, Miami; Ronnie Paggett, DE, Louisiana Tech; Willie Reed, WR, Wisconsin-Superior; Ron Robinson, WR, Utah; Ricky Smith, DB, Tulane; Ron Smith, LB, Clemson; Dave Versteg, WR, Augustana; Will Withers, LB, Utah State.

EDMONTON ESKIMOS

Maurice Burton, DB, Morgan State; Jeff Lloyd, DT, West Texas State; Harold Randolph, LB, East Carolina; James Parker, DT, Wake Forest; Michael McLeod, DB, Montana; Jerome Stanton, Michigan State; Larry Doty, RB, Linfield College; Jimmy Rogers, RB, Oklahoma; Brian Broomell, QB, Temple; Danny Knott, RB, Notre Dame; Ricky McBride, LB, Georgia; Arthur Prescott, OL, South Carolina State; Randy Johnson, OG, Georgia; Derrick Donaldson, Tulane.

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

Wiley Barnes, OT, Alabama; Jim Blackshire, LB, Louisiana Tech; Joe Callan, DB, Ohio; Mike DeGenova, DT, Boston-St. Mary's; Tim Gaines, WR, Carson Newman; Randy Gill, LB, San Jose State-St. Louis; Gary Harris, DB, Arizona; Ken Helms, OT, Georgia; Curtis Henderson, WR, Morgan State; Frank Henry, WR, Utah; John Hufnagel, QB, Penn State-Calgary, CFL; Lavon James, DB, Louisiana Tech; Ron Mackie, DE, Youngstown State; Karl McCoy, DB, Penn State; Mike Mielke, DB, W. Illinois; Martin Mitchell, DB, Tulane; Mike Quintella, WR, Louisiana State; Dave Robey, DE, California State College (Pa.); Tom Rozantz, QB, William and Mary; Chuck Toth, DB, USC; Joe Womack, DB, Louisiana State; Alvin Walker, RB, Texas A&M; Jeff Turnbow, DE, Tennessee; Gary Kama, LB, Brigham Young.

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

Earl Carr, RB, Florida; Dave Kraayeveld, DE, Milton; Joe Bell, DE, Norfolk State; Mike Harris, RB, Arizona State; Mike Reiker, QB, Lehigh; Eugene Goodlow, WR, Kansas State; Mack Green, RB, Kansas State; Robert Lee Johnson, RB, Northeast Louisiana; Jim Krohn, QB, Arizona; Larry Willis, WR, Alcorn State; Randy Scott, LB, Clemson; Chris Cobb, RB, E. Illinois; Jeff Henry, DE, Louisville; Clifton Alapa, DE, Emmett King, RB, Houston-Ottawa (CFL); Larry Bulter, OG, Appalachian State-Hamilton (CFL).

OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

Greg Anderson, DB, Montana; Brian Baggott, DB, UCLA; Bill Banks, LB, Penn State-Hamilton (CFL); Fitz Benson, OT, Temple; Reg Calvin, DB, Vanderbilt; Jordan Case, QB, North Texas State; Steve Coury, WR, Oregon State; Roy Eppes, DB, Clemson; Greg Gordon, DB, Wisconsin; Jeff Grady, LB, Florida A & M; Steve Grant, QB,

Washington State; Ron Harris, RB, Colorado State; Jerry Hefney, DB, Newberry College; Don Green, OT, Purdue; Greg Marshall, DT, Oregon State; Scooter Reed, DB, Baylor; Patrick Staub, OG, Temple; Mike Turner, WR, Albany State; Rick Tuten, DT, Clemson; Bill Trent, FB, Ferrum Jr. College; Charlie Weatherbie, QB, Oklahoma State-Edmonton, Hamilton (CFL); George Woodhouse, RB, Washington D.C.; Jaimie Young, TE, Delaware; Glenn Cook, Richmond; Mark Philp, DB, Richmond; Pat McBride, C, North Dakota State.

MONTREAL ALOUETTES

Charles Benbow, RB, Long Beach State; Fred Biletnikoff, WR, Florida State-Oakland (NFL); Carl Brazley, DB, Western Kentucky; Anthony Clay, LB, S. Carolina State; John Coleman, DB, Georgetown; Keith Credit, WR, Kent State; Jeff Gabrielsen, LB, Ripon College; Steve Jackson, DB, Louisiana State; Jim Krentz, LB, Edinboro State; Curtis Leak, WR, Johnson C. Smith; Oliver Pipkin, RB, Central State; Ernie Rogers, OT, Rice; Charles Williams, WR, Boise State; Rick Williams, RB, Southeast Missouri State; Dave Dumas, RB, Central Missouri State; Woodrow Wilson, DB, Northeast Louisiana; Jack Kutasiewicz, OG, Moorhead State; Mark Heidebrecht, LB, Springfield College.

TORONTO ARGONAUTS

Dan Bass, LB, Michigan State; Doug Becker, LB, Notre Dame; Dwayne Berry, LB, Cincinnati; Ray Berry, DB, Texas Christian; Bill Bryant, DB, Grambling; Waymond Bryant, DE, Tennessee State-Chicago Bears (NFL); Willie Coakley, DE, Fort Valley State; Doug Dennison, RB, Kutztown State-Dallas Cowboys, Cleveland Browns (NFL); Jay Faulkner, DB, North Carolina; Fitz Fowler, WR, Howard; Norm Goodman, DE, Missouri; Terry Greer, WR, Alabama State; Ray Hardee, WR, Iowa State; Greg Halton, DB, Westminster Jr.; Rory Hennings, WR, Evansville; Greg Scott, WR, Howard; Jack Steptoe, WR, Utah; Jimmy Streater, QB, Tennessee; Bobby Hosea, DB, UCLA-Montreal Alouettes (CFL); Greg Johnson, RB, San Jacinto Jr. College; Willie Lee, DT, Bethune-Cookman; John Malinosky, OT, Michigan State; Derrick Martin, DB, San Jose State; Ed Miksis, OT, Bradley; Calvin Muhammad, WR, Texas Southern; Willie McGee, WR, Alcorn A&M; Dave Newman, WR, Missouri; Scott O'Brien, DE, Wisconsin-Superior; Harrell Oliver, DE, Florida A&M; Larry Terry, DE, Southern; Judge Thomas, RB, Virginia Union; Elliot Walker, RB, Pittsburgh; Paul Warth, TE, Miami of Ohio; Burks Washington, LB, Kansas; Robert Watts, LB, Boston College.

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

Jerry Anderson, DB, Oklahoma; Dennis Anderson, DE, Norfolk State; Woodrow Carter, DT, Washburn; Chuck Campagna, DT, American International; Rufus Crawford, RB, Virginia State; Kent Davis, DB, S.E. Missouri State; Paul Gulling, WR, Mount Union; Bob Gaddis, WR, Mississippi Valley State-Montreal Alouettes (CFL); Lynn Hoover, LB, Wyoming; Carl Crennell, LB, West Virginia-Edmonton Eskimos (CFL); Walker Lee, WR, North Carolina; Larry Longo, WR, Temple; Mark Olivari, LB, Tulane; Bob Rozier, DE, Cal-Berkeley; Tyrone McGriff, OG, Florida A&M; Bernie Ruoff, K, Syracuse-Winnipeg (CFL); Gary Weinlein, DB, Hudson Valley, Dave Wolfson, RB, Pittsburgh; Willie Zackery, WR, Central State; Craig Juntunen, QB, Idaho Clint Longley, QB, Abilene Christian.

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AFC statistics

1979

PASSING

RECORDS

Most completions—262, George Blanda, Houston (1964)

Most TD's—36, George Blanda, Houston (1961)

Most Yds.—4007, Joe Namath, N.Y. Jets (1967)

Longest for TD—98 yds., Jack Lee, Houston, to Dewveall (1962)

AFC INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	Avg	TD	Pct	Long	Int	Pct	Rating
			Comp		Gain		TD			Int	Points
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	530	332	62.6	4082	7.70	24	4.5	165	24	4.5	82.6
Stabler, Ken, Oak	498	304	61.0	3615	7.26	26	5.2	166	22	4.4	82.2
Anderson, Ken, Cin.	339	189	55.8	2340	6.90	16	4.7	173	10	2.9	80.9
Zorn, Jim, Sea.	505	285	56.4	3661	7.25	20	4.0	165	18	3.6	77.6
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	423	206	48.7	3286	7.77	28	6.6	163	20	4.7	77.5
Bradshaw, Terry, Pitt.	472	259	54.9	3724	7.89	26	5.5	165	25	5.3	77.0
Landry, Greg, Balt.	457	270	59.1	2932	6.42	15	3.3	167	15	3.3	75.3
Ferguson, Joe, Buff.	458	238	52.0	3572	7.80	14	3.1	184	15	3.3	74.5
Sipe, Brian, Clev.	535	286	53.5	3793	7.09	28	5.2	74	26	4.9	73.1
Griese, Bob, Mia.	310	176	56.8	2160	6.97	14	4.5	51	16	5.2	71.8
Morton, Craig, Den.	370	204	55.1	2626	7.10	16	4.3	164	19	5.1	70.7
Todd, Richard, N.Y.J.	334	171	51.2	2660	7.96	16	4.8	172	22	6.6	66.4
Pastorini, Dan, Hou.	324	163	50.3	2090	6.45	14	4.3	155	18	5.6	61.9
Fuller, Steve, K.C.	270	146	54.1	1484	5.50	6	2.2	40	14	5.2	55.8

AFC NON-QUALIFIERS

Strock, Don, Mia.	100	56	56.0	830	8.30	6	6.0	53	6	6.0	78.3
Weese, Norris, Den.	97	53	54.6	731	7.54	1	1.0	50	3	3.1	69.4
Nielsen, Gifford, Hou.	61	32	52.5	404	6.62	3	4.9	41	3	4.9	69.3
Jones, Bert, Balt.	92	43	46.7	643	6.99	3	3.3	59	3	3.3	67.4
Kruczek, Mike, Pitt.	20	13	65.0	153	7.65	0	0.0	31	1	5.0	67.8
Plunkett, Jim, Oak	15	7	46.7	89	5.93	1	6.7	39	1	6.7	60.1
Owen, Tom, N.E.	47	27	57.4	248	5.28	2	4.3	32	3	6.4	59.6
Livingston, Mike, K.C.	90	44	48.9	469	5.21	1	1.1	138	4	4.4	49.9
Robinson, Matt, N.Y.J.	31	17	54.8	191	6.16	0	0.0	33	2	6.5	46.3
Thompson, Jack, Cin.	87	39	44.8	481	5.53	1	1.1	50	5	5.7	42.4

PUNTING

RECORDS

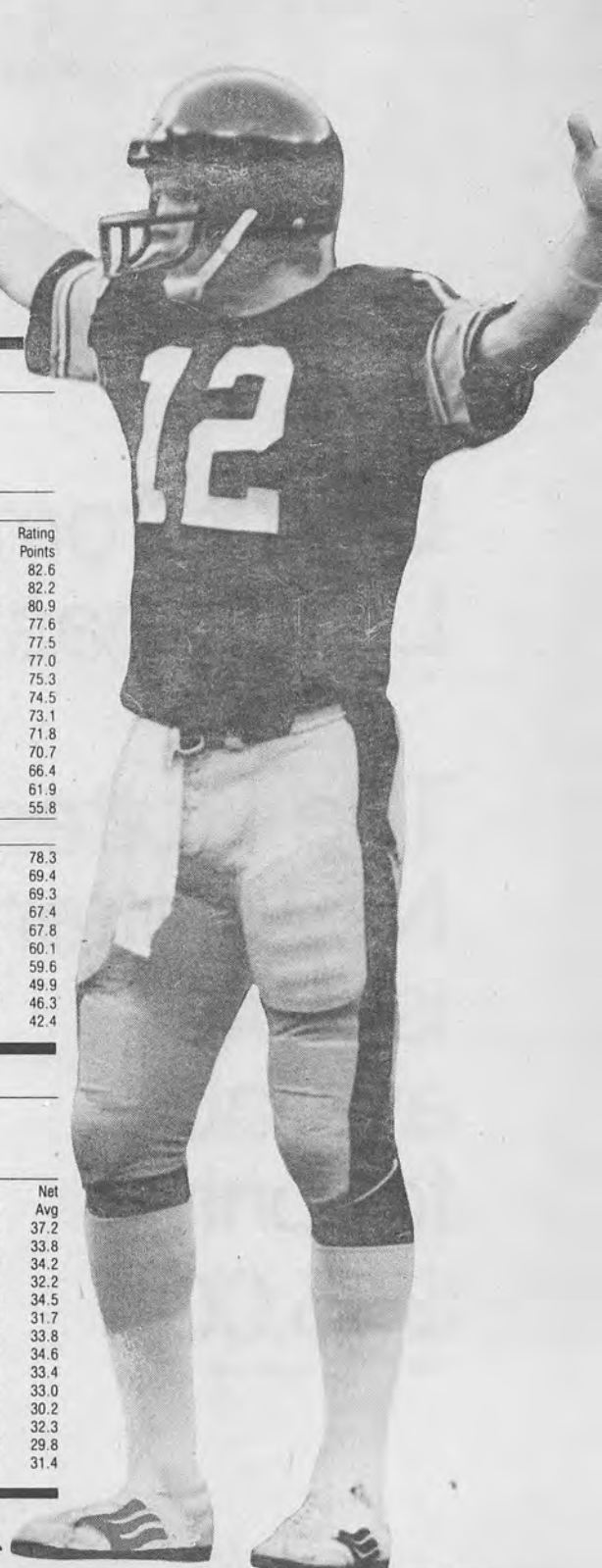
Most—105, Bob Scarpitto, Denver (1967)

Best Avg.—46.2, Dave Lewis, Cin. (1970)

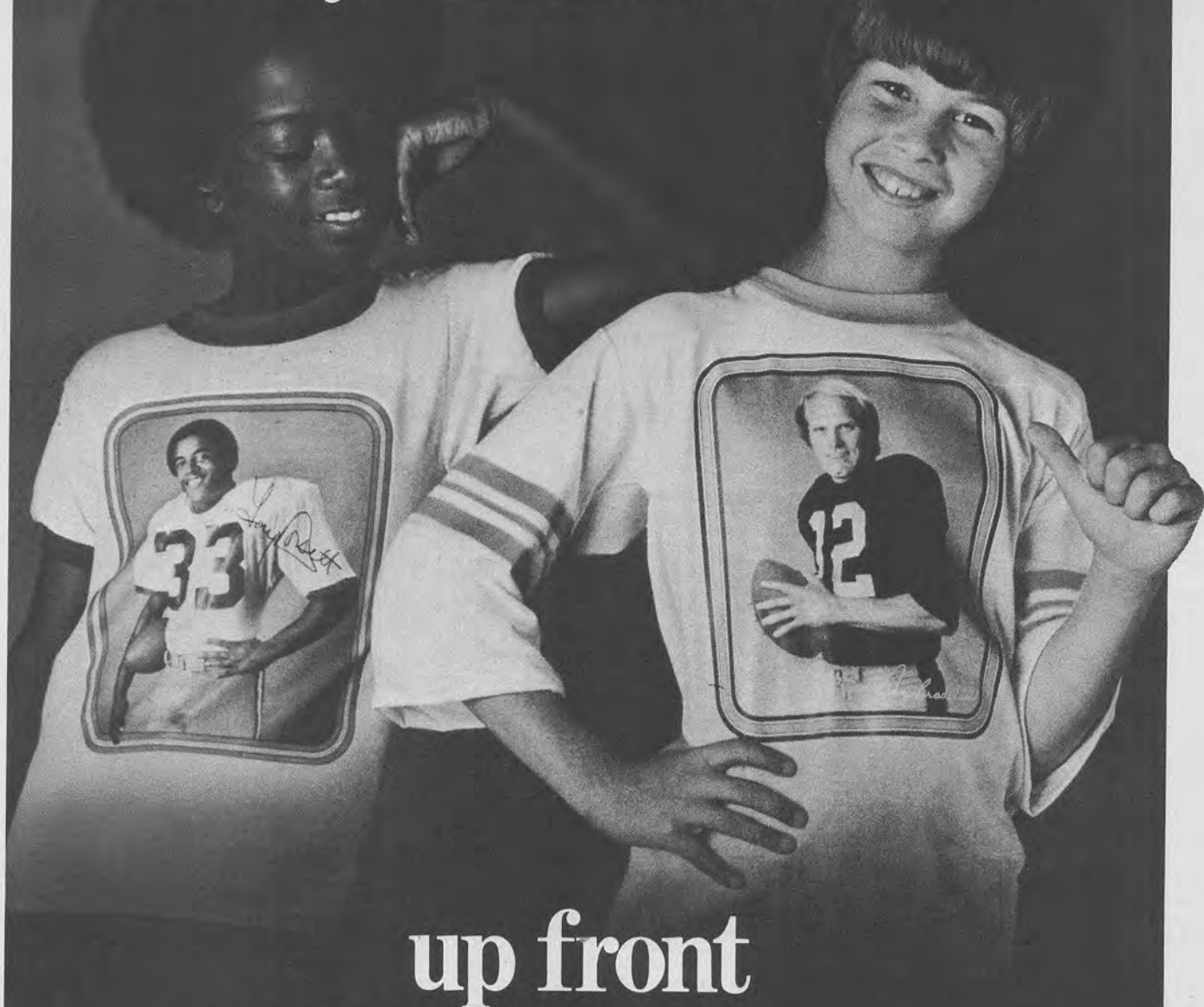
Longest—98 yds., Steve O'Neal, N.Y. Jets (1969)

	Net				Total			Opp	Ret	In	Net
	Punts	Yards	Long	Avg	Punts	TB	Blk	Ret	Yds	20	Avg
Grupp, Bob, K.C.	89	3883	74	43.6	90	11	1	49	315	23	37.2
Guy, Ray, Oak	69	2939	71	42.6	70	8	1	40	416	16	33.8
McInally, Pat, Cin.	89	3678	61	41.3	91	12	2	48	325	19	34.2
Evans, Johnny, Clev.	69	2844	59	41.2	71	9	2	45	375	7	32.2
Ramsey, Chuck, N.Y.J.	73	2979	64	40.8	73	10	0	33	260	22	34.5
Parsley, Cliff, Hou.	93	3777	59	40.6	93	5	0	64	726	14	31.7
Colquitt, Craig, Pitt.	68	2733	61	40.2	68	8	0	31	276	19	33.8
Roberts, George, Mia.	69	2772	68	40.2	70	11	1	25	131	13	34.6
Weaver, Herman, Sea.	66	2651	60	40.2	69	3	3	42	289	11	33.4
Prestridge, Luke, Den.	89	3555	63	39.9	89	7	0	52	480	17	33.0
Jackson, Rusty, Buff.	96	3671	60	38.2	96	11	0	61	555	14	30.2
Dilts, Bucky, Balt.	99	3657	53	36.9	101	5	2	43	296	21	32.3
Hare, Eddie, N.E.	83	3038	58	36.6	84	11	1	28	317	20	29.8
West, Jeff, S.D.	75	2736	62	36.5	75	9	0	34	204	23	31.4

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EAGLES: MONTGOMERY, BERGEY, CARMICHAEL, JAWORSKI, FRANKLIN.
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RAIDERS: CASPER, PASTORINI.
N.Y. JETS: WALKER.
N.Y. GIANTS: VAN PELT, SIMMS.
REDSKINS: THEISMAN.
L.A. RAMS: HADEN, FERRAGAMO, DRYER, TYLER, WADDY.
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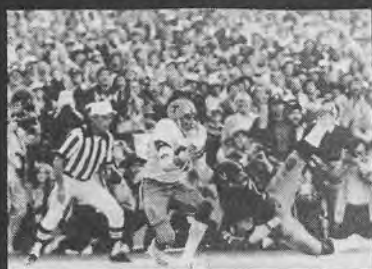
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AFC statistics

AFC SCORING

RECORDS

Points—155, Gino Cappelletti, Boston (1964)

TD's—23, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)

FG's—34, Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets (1968)

XP—64, George Blanda, Houston (1961)

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Smith, John, N.E.	46	49	23	33	115
Bahr, Matt, Pitt.	50	52	18	30	104
Fritsch, Toni, Hou.	41	43	21	25	104
Herrera, Eflen, Sea.	43	46	19	23	100
von Schamann, Uwe, Mia.	36	40	21	29	99
Breech, Jim, Oak.	41	45	18	27	95
Cockroft, Don, Clev.	38	43	17	29	89
Bahr, Chris, Cin.	40	42	13	23	79
Mike-Mayer, Nick, Buff.	17	18	20	29	77
Wood, Mike, St. L.-S.D.	34	38	13	21	73
Turner, Jim, Den.	32	34	13	21	71
Stenerud, Jan, K.C.	28	29	12	23	64
Mike-Mayer, Steve, Balt.	28	29	11	20	61
Leahy, Pat, N.Y.J.	12	15	8	13	36
Linhart, Toni, Balt.-N.Y.J.	14	18	6	14	32
Jacobs, Dave, N.Y.J.	10	11	5	9	25
Benirschke, Rolf, S.D.	12	13	4	4	24
Dempsey, Tom, Buff.	8	11	1	4	11
Gerela, Roy, S.D.	6	7	1	7	9
Szaro, Rich, N.Y.J.	2	2	0	2	2
Olander, Cliff, S.D.	1	1	0	1	1

NON-KICKERS

	TD	R	P	M	PTS
Campbell, Earl, Hou.	19	19	0	0	114
Johnson, Pete, Cin.	15	14	1	0	90
Smith, Sherman, Sea.	15	11	4	0	90
Csonka, Larry, Mia.	13	12	1	0	78
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	13	0	12	1	78
Harris, Franco, Pitt.	12	11	1	0	72
Williams, Clarence, S.D.	12	12	0	0	72
Pruitt, Mike, Clev.	11	9	2	0	66
Jefferson, John, S.D.	10	0	10	0	60
Thornton, Sidney, Pitt.	10	6	4	0	60
Doornink, Dan, Sea.	9	8	1	0	54
Largent, Steve, Sea.	9	0	9	0	54
Newsome, Ozzie, Clev.	9	0	9	0	54
van Eeghen, Mark, Oak.	9	7	2	0	54
Bauer, Hank, S.D.	8	8	0	0	48
Chester, Raymond, Oak.	8	0	8	0	48
Curtis, Isaac, Cin.	8	0	8	0	48
McKnight, Ted, K.C.	8	8	0	0	48
Stallworth, John, Pitt.	8	0	8	0	48
Jackson, Harold, N.E.	7	0	7	0	42
Logan, Dave, Clev.	7	0	7	0	42
Long, Kevin, N.Y.J.	7	7	0	0	42
Upchurch, Rick, Den.	7	0	7	0	42
Washington, Joe, Balt.	7	4	3	0	42
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	6	0	6	0	36
Burrough, Ken, Hou.	6	0	6	0	36
Calhoun, Don, N.E.	6	5	1	0	36
Hooks, Roland, Buff.	6	6	0	0	36
McCauley, Don, Balt.	6	3	3	0	36
Moore, Nat, Mia.	6	0	6	0	36
Moses, Haven, Den.	6	0	6	0	36
Newton, Tom, N.Y.J.	6	6	0	0	36
Rucker, Reggie, Clev.	6	0	6	0	36
Swann, Lynn, Pitt.	6	1	5	0	36
Cunningham, Sam, N.E.	5	5	0	0	30
Francis, Russ, N.E.	5	0	5	0	30
Klein, Bob, S.D.	5	0	5	0	30
Smith, J.T., K.C.	5	0	3	2	30
Thompson, Jack, Cin.	5	5	0	0	30
Todd, Richard, N.Y.J.	5	5	0	0	30
Walker, Wesley, N.Y.J.	5	0	5	0	30
Barkum, Jerome, N.Y.J.	4	0	4	0	24
Bleiler, Rocky, Pitt.	4	4	0	0	24
Brown, Curtis, Buff.	4	1	3	0	24
Butler, Jerry, Buff.	4	0	4	0	24
Carpenter, Rob, Hou.	4	3	1	0	24
Cunningham, Bennie, Pitt.	4	0	4	0	24
Hardeman, Don, Balt.	4	3	1	0	24
Joiner, Charlie, S.D.	4	0	4	0	24
Lytle, Rob, Den.	4	4	0	0	24
McCall, Reese, Balt.	4	0	4	0	24
McCullum, Sam, Sea.	4	0	4	0	24
Morgado, Arnold, K.C.	4	4	0	0	24
Russell, Booker, Oak.	4	4	0	0	24
Williams, Delvin, Mia.	4	3	1	0	24
Armstrong, Otis, Den.	3	2	1	0	18
Barber, Mike, Hou.	3	0	3	0	18
Zass, Don, Cin.	3	0	3	0	18
Bulaich, Norm, Mia.	3	2	1	0	18
Casper, Dave, Oak.	3	0	3	0	18

* = Safety

Cefalo, Jimmy, Mia.	3	0	3	0	18
Dierking, Scott, N.Y.J.	3	3	0	0	18
Hardy, Bruce, Mia.	3	0	3	0	18
Harris, Duriel, Mia.	3	0	3	0	18
Hill, Calvin, Clev.	3	1	2	0	18
Ivory, Horace, N.E.	3	1	2	0	18
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	3	0	2	1	8
Ramsey, Derrick, Oak.	3	0	3	0	18
Shuler, Mickey, N.Y.J.	3	0	3	0	18
Weese, Norris, Den.	3	3	0	0	18
Williams, Mike, K.C.	3	1	2	0	18
Wilson, Tim, Hou.	3	2	1	0	18
Anderson, Ken, Cin.	2	2	0	0	12
Brazier, Larry, Balt.	2	0	0	2	12
Clark, Allan, N.E.	2	2	0	0	12
Collier, Mike, Buff.	2	2	0	0	12
Doughty, Glenn, Balt.	2	0	2	0	12
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	2	2	0	0	12
Gant, Reuben, Buff.	2	0	2	0	12
Griffin, Archie, Cin.	2	0	2	0	12
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	2	2	0	0	12
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	2	0	2	0	12
Hayes, Lester, Oak.	2	0	0	2	12
Jensen, Jim, Den.	2	1	1	0	12
Lewis, Frank, Buff.	2	0	2	0	12
Lowe, Woodrow, S.D.	2	0	0	2	12
Marshall, Henry, K.C.	2	1	1	0	12
Martini, Rich, Oak.	2	0	2	0	12
Moore, Jeff, Sea.	2	2	0	0	12
Moriarty, Pat, Clev.	2	2	0	0	12
Owens, Artie, S.D.	2	1	1	0	12
Piccone, Lou, Buff.	2	0	2	0	12
Preston, Dave, Den.	2	1	1	0	12
Renfro, Mike, Hou.	2	0	2	0	12
Siani, Mike, Balt.	2	0	2	0	12
Sipe, Brian, Clev.	2	2	0	0	12
Smith, Jim, Pitt.	2	0	2	0	12
Whittington, Arthur, Oak.	2	2	0	0	12
Winslow, Keilen, S.D.	2	0	2	0	12
Zorn, Jim, Sea.	2	2	0	0	12
Young, Wilbur, S.D.	1	0	0	1	*8
Alexander, Charles, Cin.	1	1	0	0	6
Alston, Mack, Balt.	1	0	1	0	6
Anderson, Anthony, Pitt.	1	1	0	0	6
Baker, Jesse, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
Barbaro, Gary, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Belton, Horace, K.C.	1	1	0	0	6
Bennett, Woody, N.Y.J.	1	1	0	0	6
Brooks, Billy, Cin.	1	0	1	0	6
Brown, Larry, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Brunson, Larry, Oak.	1	0	1	0	6
Carr, Roger, Balt.	1	0	1	0	6
Carter, Rubin, Den.	1	0	0	1	6
Caster, Rich, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Coleman, Ronnie, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Darden, Thom, Clev.	1	0	0	1	6
Davis, Gary, Mia.	1	1	0	0	6
DeRo, Brian, Balt.	1	0	1	0	6
Feacher, Ricky, Clev.	1	0	1	0	6
Ferguson, Joe, Buff.	1	1	0	0	6
Floyd, John, S.D.	1	0	1	0	6
Freeman, Steve, Buff.	1	0	0	1	6
Fuller, Steve, K.C.	1	1	0	0	6
Gaffney, Derrick, N.Y.J.	1	0	1	0	6
Gant, Earl, K.C.	1	1	0	0	6
Gaunt, Steve, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Glasgow, Nesby, Balt.	1	0	0	1	6
Green, Sammy, Sea.	1	0	0	1	6
Griffin, Ray, Cin.	1	0	0	1	6
Grossman, Randy, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Hall, Dino, Clev.	1	1	0	0	6
Hawkins, Clarence, Oak.	1	0	1	0	6
Hawkins, Mike, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6
Hawthorne, Greg, Pitt.	1	1	0	0	6
Hendricks, Ted, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Hunter, Al, Sea.	1	1	0	0	6
Jackson, Bobby, N.Y.J.	1	0	0	1	6
Jarvis, Ray, N.E.	1	0	1	0	6
Jensen, Derrick, Oak.	1	0	1	0	6
Johnson, Andy, N.E.	1	1	0	0	6
Johnson, Billy, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Johnson, Monte, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Jones, Bert, Balt.	1	1	0	0	6
Jones, Bobby, N.Y.J.	1	0	1	0	6
Keyworth, Jon, Den.	1	1	0	0	6
Kurnick, Howard, Cin.	1	0	0	1	6
Leaks, Roosevelt, Balt.	1	1	0	0	6
LeClair, Jim, Cin.	1	0	0	1	6
Lynn, Johnny, N.Y.J.	1	0	0	1	6
Matthews, Bo, S.D.	1	1	0	0	6
Matthews, Ira, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Merkens, Guido, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Miller, Cleo, Clev.	1	1	0	0	6
Miller, Terry, Buff.	1	1	0	0	6
Mitchell, Lydell, S.D.	1	0	1	0	6
Morton, Craig, Den.	1	1	0	0	6
Moser, Rick, Pitt.	1	1	0	0	6

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AFC statistics

AFC RUSHING

RECORDS

Attempts—332, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1973)
Most TD's—16, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)
16, Pete Banaszak, Oakland (1975)
Most Yds.—2003 O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1973)

	Att	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Campbell, Earl, Hou.	368	1697	4.6	161	19
Pruitt, Mike, Clev.	264	1294	4.9	177	9
Harris, Franco, Pitt.	267	1186	4.4	171	11
Gaines, Clark, N.Y.J.	186	905	4.9	52	0
Washington, Joe, Balt.	242	884	3.7	26	4
Johnson, Pete, Cin.	243	865	3.6	135	14
Csonka, Larry, Mia.	220	837	3.8	22	12
van Eeghen, Mark, Oak.	223	818	3.7	19	7
Smith, Sherman, Sea.	194	775	4.0	31	11
Dierking, Scott, N.Y.J.	186	767	4.1	40	3
McKnight, Ted, K.C.	153	755	4.9	184	8
Williams, Clarence, S.D.	200	752	3.8	155	12
Williams, Delvin, Mia.	184	703	3.8	39	3
Griffin, Archie, Cin.	140	688	4.9	63	0
Thornton, Sidney, Pitt.	118	585	5.0	75	6
Brown, Curtis, Buff.	172	574	3.3	25	1
Cunningham, Sam, N.E.	159	563	3.5	27	5
Ivory, Horace, N.E.	143	522	3.7	52	1
Doornink, Dan, Sea.	152	500	3.3	126	8
Miller, Terry, Buff.	139	484	3.5	75	1
Calhoun, Don, N.E.	137	456	3.3	29	5
Armstrong, Otis, Den.	108	453	4.2	26	2
Reed, Tony, K.C.	113	446	3.9	23	1
Long, Kevin, N.Y.J.	116	442	3.8	25	7
Bleier, Rocky, Pitt.	92	434	4.7	170	4
Jensen, Jim, Den.	106	400	3.8	30	1
Whittington, Arthur, Oak.	109	397	3.6	22	2
Davis, Gary, Mia.	98	383	3.9	42	1
Lytle, Bob, Den.	102	371	3.6	19	4
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	64	368	5.8	26	2
Carpenter, Rob, Hou.	92	355	3.9	13	3
Thomas, Mike, S.D.	91	353	3.9	21	1
Keyworth, Jon, Den.	81	323	4.0	17	1
Hooks, Roland, Buff.	89	320	3.6	132	6
Wilson, Tim, Hou.	84	319	3.8	19	2
Hardeman, Don, Balt.	109	292	2.7	16	3
Alexander, Charles, Cin.	88	286	3.3	17	1
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	65	282	4.3	31	0
Zorn, Jim, Sea.	46	279	6.1	41	2
Fuller, Steve, K.C.	50	264	5.3	49	1
Williams, Mike, K.C.	69	261	3.8	22	1
Jensen, Derrick, Oak.	73	251	3.4	15	0
Anderson, Ken, Cin.	28	235	8.4	21	2
Pruitt, Greg, Clev.	62	233	3.8	27	0
Morgado, Arnold, K.C.	75	231	3.1	19	4
Miller, Cleo, Clev.	39	213	5.5	139	1
Mitchell, Lydell, S.D.	63	211	3.3	15	0
Gant, Earl, K.C.	56	196	3.5	16	1
Hill, Calvin, Clev.	53	193	3.6	33	1
Russell, Booker, Oak.	33	190	5.8	72	4
Sipe, Brian, Clev.	45	178	4.0	34	2
Hunter, Al, Sea.	34	174	5.1	67	1
Preston, Dave, Den.	43	169	3.9	18	1
Moore, Jeff, Sea.	44	168	3.8	18	2
McCauley, Don, Balt.	59	168	2.8	13	3
Hall, Dino, Clev.	22	152	6.9	152	1
Owens, Artie, S.D.	40	151	3.8	23	1
Newton, Tom, N.Y.J.	37	145	3.9	151	6
Leaks, Roosevelt, Balt.	49	145	3.0	17	1
Canada, Larry, Den.	36	143	4.0	17	0
Belton, Horace, K.C.	44	134	3.0	12	1
Johnson, Andy, N.E.	43	132	3.1	15	1
Collier, Mike, Buff.	34	130	3.8	22	2
Hawthorne, Greg, Pitt.	28	123	4.4	19	1
Anderson, Anthony, Pitt.	18	118	6.6	31	1
Weese, Norris, Den.	18	116	6.4	20	3
Thompson, Jack, Cin.	21	116	5.5	21	5
Landry, Greg, Balt.	31	115	3.7	17	0
Matthews, Bo, S.D.	30	112	3.7	22	1
Todd, Richard, N.Y.J.	36	93	2.6	21	5
Turner, David, Cin.	28	86	3.1	10	1
Clark, Allan, N.E.	19	84	4.4	19	2
Bradshaw, Terry, Pitt.	21	83	4.0	28	0
Coleman, Ronnie, Hou.	21	81	3.9	10	0
Hawkins, Clarence, Oak.	21	72	3.4	34	0
Tatupu, Mosi, N.E.	23	71	3.1	12	0
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	16	68	4.3	18	0
Ferguson, Joe, Buff.	22	68	3.1	15	1
Torrey, Bob, Mia.	13	61	4.7	17	1
Sims, David, Sea.	20	53	2.7	8	0
Clark, Boobie, Hou.	22	51	2.3	7	0
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	26	49	1.9	26	2
Garry, Ben, Balt.	13	41	3.2	14	0

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Jones, Bert, Balt.	10	40	4.0	25	1
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	7	39	5.6	17	0
Bulaich, Norm, Mia.	9	37	4.1	9	2
Bass, Don, Cin.	4	35	8.8	14	0
Marshall, Henry, K.C.	2	34	17.0	123	1
Moser, Rick, Pitt.	11	33	3.0	8	1
Griese, Bob, Mia.	11	30	2.7	18	0
Prestridge, Luke, Den.	1	29	29.0	29	0
Powell, Steve, Buff.	10	29	2.9	9	0
Bauer, Hank, S.D.	22	28	1.3	6	8
Harris, James, S.D.	6	26	4.3	18	0
Caster, Rich, Hou.	4	25	6.3	10	0
Pastorini, Dan, Hou.	15	23	1.5	14	0
Moore, Nat, Mia.	3	22	7.3	18	0
Harris, Duriel, Mia.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Kruczek, Mike, Pitt.	4	20	5.0	22	0
McInally, Pat, Cin.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Plunkett, Jim, Oak.	3	18	6.0	15	0
Strock, Don, Mia.	3	18	6.0	11	0
Upchurch, Rick, Den.	3	17	5.7	18	0
Dinkel, Tom, Cin.	2	14	7.0	9	0
Robiskie, Terry, Oak.	10	14	1.4	16	0
Butler, Jerry, Buff.	2	13	6.5	12	0
Benjamin, Tony, Sea.	5	13	2.6	8	0
Morton, Craig, Den.	23	13	0.6	7	1
Smith, Jim, Pitt.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Jackson, Harold, N.E.	3	12	4.0	12	0
Adkins, Sam, Sea.	2	11	5.5	9	0
Moriarty, Pat, Clev.	14	11	0.8	8	2
Swann, Lynn, Pitt.	1	9	9.0	19	1
Dixon, Zachary, Den.	3	9	3.0	7	0
King, Kenny, Hou.	3	9	3.0	4	0
Westbrook, Don, N.E.	2	8	4.0	4	0
Howell, Steve, Mia.	3	8	2.7	5	0
Nielsen, Gifford, Hou.	5	7	1.4	7	0
Newsome, Ozzie, Clev.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Johnson, Dennis, Buff.	3	5	1.7	2	0
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Jones, Bobby, N.Y.J.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Mike-Mayer, Nick, Buff.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Adams, Willis, Clev.	2	4	2.0	3	0
Barber, Mike, Hou.	2	4	2.0	6	0
Bennett, Woody, N.Y.J.	2	4	2.0	3	1
Robinson, Matt, N.Y.J.	3	4	1.3	10	1
White, Stan, Balt.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Matthews, Ira, Oak.	2	3	1.5	3	0
Livingston, Mike, K.C.	3	2	0.7	5	0
Haslip, Wilbert, K.C.	2	1	0.5	1	0
Fuller, Mike, S.D.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Hare, Eddie, N.E.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Myer, Steve, Sea.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Kreider, Steve, Cin.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Ramsey, Chuck, N.Y.J.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Owen, Tom, N.E.	2	-1	-0.5	0	0

AFC PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

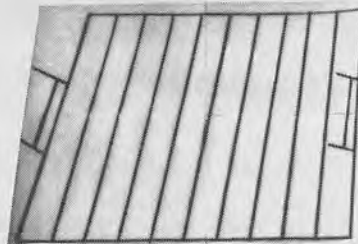
Most caught—101, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1964)

Most yds.—1746, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1961)

Most TD's—17, Bill Groman, Houston (1961)

	No	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Washington, Joe, Balt.	82	750	9.1	143	3
Joiner, Charlie, S.D.	72	1008	14.0	39	4
Stallworth, John, Pitt.	70	1183	16.9	165	8
Largent, Steve, Sea.	66	1237	18.7	155	9
Upchurch, Rick, Den.	64	937	14.6	47	7
Jefferson, John, S.D.	61	1090	17.9	165	10
Logan, Dave, Clev.	59	982	16.6	46	7
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	59	844	14.3	166	6
Bass, Don, Cin.	58	724	12.5	50	3
Chester, Raymond, Oak.	58	712	12.3	39	8
Casper, Dave, Oak.	57	771	13.5	42	3
Newsome, Ozzie, Clev.	55	781	14.2	74	9
McCauley, Don, Balt.	55	575	10.5	35	3
Lewis, Frank, Buff.	54	1082	20.0	55	2
Moses, Haven, Den.	54	943	17.5	164	6
Doornink, Dan, Sea.	54	432	8.0	41	1
van Eeghen, Mark, Oak.	51	474	9.3	36	2
Williams, Clarence, S.D.	51	352	6.9	14	0
Moore, Nat, Mia.	48	840	17.5	53	6
Butler, Jerry, Buff.	48	834	17.4	175	4
Smith, Sherman, Sea.	48	499	10.4	35	4
McCullum, Sam, Sea.	46	739	16.1	165	4
Jackson, Harold, N.E.	45	1013	22.5	59	7
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	44	1002	22.8	163	12
Rucker, Reggie, Clev.	43	749	17.4	54	6
Griffin, Archie, Cin.	43	417	9.7	152	2
Harris, Duriel, Mia.	42	798	19.0	51	3
Swann, Lynn, Pitt.	41	808	19.7	65	5
Ross, Dan, Cin.	41	516	12.6	41	1
Pruitt, Mike, Clev.	41	372	9.1	150	2

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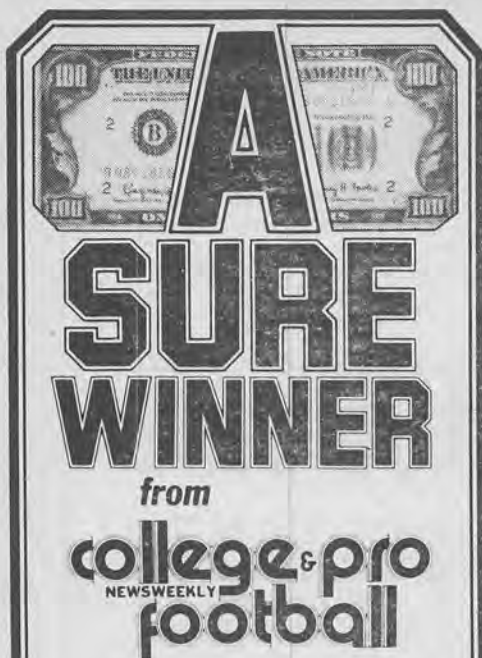
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AFC statistics

	No	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Burrough, Ken, Hou	40	752	18.8	155	6
Odums, Riley, Den	40	638	16.0	45	1
Francis, Russ, N.E.	39	557	14.3	44	5
Brown, Curtis, Buff	39	401	10.3	184	3
Hill, Calvin, Clev	38	381	10.0	31	2
McKnight, Ted, K.C.	38	226	5.9	24	0
McCall, Reese, Balt.	37	536	14.5	36	4
Klein, Bob, S.D.	37	424	11.5	154	5
Cunningham, Bennie, Pitt	36	512	14.2	128	4
Harris, Franco, Pitt	36	291	8.1	21	1
Doughty, Glenn, Balt	35	510	14.6	54	2
Reed, Tony, K.C.	34	352	10.4	40	0
Davis, Gary, Mia	34	215	6.3	18	0
Piccone, Lou, Buff	33	556	16.8	49	2
Smith, J.T., K.C.	33	444	13.5	34	3
Curtis, Isaac, Cin	32	605	18.9	167	8
Gaffney, Derrick, N.Y.J.	32	534	16.7	43	1
Thomas, Mike, S.D.	32	388	12.1	32	0
Bleier, Rocky, Pitt	31	277	8.9	28	0
Hardy, Bruce, Mia	30	386	12.9	28	3
Cunningham, Sam, N.E.	29	236	8.1	20	0
Gaines, Clark, N.Y.J.	29	219	7.6	15	0
Wilson, Tim, Hou	29	208	7.2	124	1
Barkum, Jerome, N.Y.J.	27	401	14.9	40	4
Carr, Roger, Balt.	27	400	14.8	37	1
Barber, Mike, Hou	27	377	14.0	137	3
Hooks, Roland, Buff	26	254	9.8	42	0
Miller, Cleo, Clev	26	251	9.7	33	0
Peets, Brian, Sea	25	293	11.7	28	1
Winslow, Kellen, S.D.	25	255	10.2	30	2
Hardeman, Don, Balt	25	115	4.6	14	1
Martini, Rich, Oak	24	259	10.8	122	2
Johnson, Pete, Cin	24	154	6.4	115	1
Walker, Wesley, N.Y.J.	23	569	24.7	171	5
Ivory, Horace, N.E.	23	216	9.4	24	2
Marshall, Henry, K.C.	21	332	15.8	138	1
Williams, Delvin, Mia	21	175	8.3	38	1
Raible, Steve, Sea	20	252	12.6	41	1
Jones, Bobby, N.Y.J.	19	379	19.9	51	1
Gant, Reuben, Buff	19	245	12.9	22	2
Whittington, Arthur, Oak	19	240	12.6	39	0
Mitchell, Lydell, S.D.	19	159	8.4	24	1
Jensen, Jim, Den	19	144	7.6	125	1
Preston, Dave, Den	19	137	7.2	19	1
Caster, Rich, Hou	18	239	13.3	36	1
Keyworth, Jon, Den	18	132	7.3	18	0
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	17	250	14.7	172	2
Smith, Jim, Pitt	17	243	14.3	25	2
Nathan, Tony, Mia	17	213	12.5	35	2
Renfro, Mike, Hous	16	323	20.2	49	2
Thornton, Sidney, Pitt	16	231	14.4	32	4
Shuler, Mickey, N.Y.J.	16	225	14.1	46	3
Williams, Mike, K.C.	16	129	8.1	25	2
Carpenter, Rob, Hou	16	116	7.3	22	1
Campbell, Earl, Hou	16	94	5.9	46	0
Csonka, Larry, Mia	16	75	4.7	18	1
Siani, Mike, Balt	15	214	14.3	131	2
Owens, Artie, S.D.	15	176	11.7	132	1
Gant, Earl, K.C.	15	101	6.7	26	0
Calhoun, Don, N.E.	15	66	4.4	14	1
Pruitt, Greg, Clev	14	155	11.1	27	1
Samuels, Tony, K.C.	14	147	10.5	30	0
Armstrong, Otis, Den	14	138	9.9	17	1
Moore, Jeff, Sea	14	128	9.1	24	0
Leaks, Roosevelt, Balt	14	119	8.5	15	0
Ramsey, Derrick, Oak	13	161	12.4	40	3
Hasselbeck, Don, N.E.	13	158	12.2	41	0
Lytte, Rob, Den	13	93	7.2	12	0
Cefalo, Jimmy, Mia	12	223	18.6	30	3
Grossman, Randy, Pitt	12	217	18.1	54	1
Coleman, Ronnie, Hou	12	114	9.5	17	1
Alexander, Charles, Cin	11	91	8.3	13	0
Floyd, John, S.D.	10	152	15.2	40	1
Dierking, Scott, N.Y.J.	10	121	12.1	27	0
Long, Kevin, N.Y.J.	10	115	11.5	27	0
Alston, Mack, Balt	10	114	11.4	26	1
Miller, Terry, Buff	10	111	11.1	52	0
Westbrook, Don, N.E.	9	173	19.2	38	1
Johnson, Andy, N.E.	9	68	7.6	11	0
Brooks, Billy, Cin	8	214	26.8	173	1
Bulaich, Norm, Mia	8	53	6.6	13	1
Hawthorne, Greg, Pitt	8	47	5.9	17	0
Feacher, Ricky, Clev	7	103	14.7	25	1
Hunter, Al, Sea	7	77	11.0	18	0
Collier, Mike, Buff	7	43	6.1	19	0
Matthews, Bo, S.D.	7	40	5.7	13	0
Jensen, Derrick, Oak	7	23	3.3	7	1
Burke, Randy, Balt	6	151	25.2	59	0
Johnson, Billy, Hou	6	108	18.0	29	1
Watson, Steve, Den	6	83	13.8	22	0
Russell, Booker, Oak	6	79	13.2	26	0
Clark, Boobie, Hou	6	58	9.7	38	0

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Gauntly, Steve, K.C.	5	87	17.4	23	1
Egloff, Ron, Den.	5	70	14.0	22	0
Morgado, Arnold, K.C.	5	55	11.0	22	0
Brunson, Larry, Oak.	5	49	9.8	17	1
Robiskie, Terry, Oak.	5	36	7.2	11	0
McCrary, Greg, S.D.	5	32	6.4	19	0
DeRoo, Brian, Balt.	4	82	20.5	167	1
Burton, Larry, S.D.	4	62	15.5	23	0
Belton, Horace, K.C.	4	44	11.0	23	0
Rucker, Conrad, Hou.	4	40	10.0	16	0
Pennywell, Carlos, N.E.	4	35	8.8	113	1
Newton, Tom, N.Y.J.	4	33	8.3	11	0
Sims, David, Sea.	4	28	7.0	13	0
Dolbin, Jack, Den.	3	74	24.7	45	0
Bell, Theo, Pitt.	3	61	20.3	31	0
Merkens, Guido, Hou.	3	44	14.7	20	1
Shipp, Joe, Buff.	3	43	14.3	27	1
Canada, Larry, Den.	3	36	12.0	15	0
Corbett, Jim, Cin.	3	34	11.3	15	0
Bradshaw, Morris, Oak.	3	28	9.3	12	0
Howell, Steve, Mia.	3	23	7.7	11	0
Kreider, Steve, Cin.	3	20	6.7	8	0
White, Walter, K.C.	3	15	5.0	12	0
Garry, Ben, Balt.	3	9	3.0	12	0
Clark, Allan, N.E.	2	35	17.5	20	0
Fulton, Danny, Buff.	2	34	17.0	18	0
Jarvis, Ray, N.E.	2	30	15.0	115	1
Hawkins, Clarence, Oak.	2	24	12.0	120	1
Beckman, Ed, K.C.	2	21	10.5	12	0
Bell, Mark, Sea.	2	20	10.0	16	0
Turner, David, Cin.	2	18	9.0	10	0
Hall, Dino, Clev.	2	14	7.0	8	0
Lee, Ron, Mia.	2	14	7.0	10	0
Ferguson, Duke, Sea.	2	12	6.0	10	0
Raba, Bob, N.Y.J.	2	9	4.5	6	0
Tatupu, Mosi, N.E.	2	9	4.5	5	0
Torrey, Bob, Mia.	2	3	1.5	8	0
Webster, Cornell, Sea.	1	39	39.0	39	0
McInally, Pat, Cin.	1	24	24.0	24	0
Herrera, Efen, Sea.	1	20	20.0	20	0

TOP 25 PASS RECEIVERS BY YARDS

	Yards	No	Avg	Long	TD
Largent, Steve, Sea.	1237	66	18.7	155	9
Stallworth, John, Pitt.	1183	70	16.9	165	8
Jefferson, John, S.D.	1090	61	17.9	165	10
Lewis, Frank, Buff.	1082	54	20.0	55	2
Jackson, Harold, N.E.	1013	45	22.5	59	2
Joiner, Charlie, S.D.	1008	72	14.0	39	4
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	1002	44	22.8	163	12
Logan, Dave, Clev.	982	59	16.6	46	7
Moses, Haven, Den.	943	54	17.5	164	9
Upchurch, Rick, Den.	937	64	14.6	47	7
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	844	59	14.3	166	6
Moore, Nat, Mia.	840	48	17.5	53	6
Butler, Jerry, Buff.	834	48	17.4	175	4
Swann, Lynn, Pitt.	808	41	19.7	65	5
Harris, Duriel, Mia.	798	42	19.0	51	3
Newsome, Ozzie, Clev.	781	55	14.2	74	9
Casper, Dave, Oak.	771	57	13.5	42	3
Burrough, Ken, Hou.	752	40	18.8	155	6
Washington, Joe, Balt.	750	82	9.1	143	3
Rucker, Reggie, Clev.	749	43	17.4	54	6
McCullum, Sam, Sea.	739	46	16.1	165	4
Bass, Don, Cin.	724	58	12.5	50	3
Chester, Raymond, Oak.	712	58	12.3	39	8
Odums, Riley, Den.	638	40	16.0	45	1
Curtis, Isaac, Cin.	605	32	18.9	167	8

AFC INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS

Most—12, Fred Glick, Houston (1963)

12, Dainard Paulson, Jets (1964)

12, Emmitt Thomas, Kansas City (1974)

Most Yds.—349, Charlie McNeil, San Diego (1961)

Most TD's—4, Ken Houston, Houston (1971)

4, Jim Kearney, Kansas City (1973)

	No	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Reinfeldt, Mike, Hou.	12	205	17.1	39	0
Barbaro, Gary, K.C.	7	142	20.3	170	1
Hayes, Lester, Oak.	7	100	14.3	152	2
Wilson, J.C., Hou.	6	135	22.5	66	1
Nixon, Jeff, Buff.	6	81	13.5	43	0
Jauron, Dick, Cin.	6	41	6.8	12	0
Owens, Burgess, N.Y.J.	6	41	6.8	15	0
Lambert, Jack, Pitt.	6	29	4.8	23	0
Foley, Steve, Den.	6	14	2.3	7	0
Lowe, Woodrow, S.D.	5	150	30.0	177	2
Green, Gary, K.C.	5	148	29.6	57	0
Darden, Thom, Clev.	5	125	25.0	139	1
Preston, Ray, S.D.	5	121	24.2	35	0

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AFC statistics

	No	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Clark, Mario, Buff.	5	95	19.0	36	0
Colzie, Neal, Mia.	5	86	17.2	56	0
Small, Gerald, Mia.	5	74	14.8	40	0
Clayborn, Raymond, N.E.	5	56	11.2	27	0
Brown, Dave, Sea.	5	46	9.2	23	0
Shell, Donnie, Pitt.	5	10	2.0	8	0
Griffin, Ray, Cin.	4	167	41.8	196	1
Edwards, Glen, S.D.	4	99	24.8	53	0
Phillips, Charles, Oak.	4	92	23.0	30	0
Shiver, Sanders, Balt.	4	85	21.3	52	0
Simpson, Keith, Sea.	4	72	18.0	41	0
Blackwood, Lyle, Balt.	4	63	15.8	27	0
Jackson, Bobby, N.Y.J.	4	63	15.8	158	1
Thompson, Bill, Den.	4	57	14.3	28	0
Williams, Mike, S.D.	4	55	13.8	50	0
Brazile, Larry, Balt.	4	49	12.3	131	1
Fuller, Mike, S.D.	4	39	9.8	23	0
Wagner, Mike, Pitt.	4	31	7.8	19	0
Laird, Bruce, Balt.	3	101	33.7	68	0
Bingham, Gregg, Hou.	3	78	26.0	54	0
Haynes, Mike, N.E.	3	66	22.0	33	0
Freeman, Steve, Buff.	3	62	20.7	150	1
Scott, Clarence, Clev.	3	56	18.7	29	0
Shaw, Pete, S.D.	3	54	18.0	30	0
McCray, Prentice, N.E.	3	48	16.0	26	0
Winston, Dennis, Pitt.	3	48	16.0	141	1
Suggs, Shafer, N.Y.J.	3	41	13.7	132	1
Williams, Henry, Oak.	3	37	12.3	33	0
Carter, Milton, K.C.	3	33	11.0	20	0
Perry, Vernon, Hou.	3	33	11.0	24	0
Bolton, Ron, Clev.	3	20	6.7	13	0
Cobb, Marvin, Cin.	3	19	6.3	14	0
Blount, Mel, Pitt.	3	1	0.3	1	0
Swenson, Bob, Den.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Sternick, Greg, Hou.	2	50	25.0	50	0
Lynn, Johnny, N.Y.J.	2	46	23.0	32	0
Brazile, Robert, Hou.	2	45	22.5	26	0
Collier, Tim, K.C.	2	45	22.5	40	0
Haslett, Jim, Buff.	2	15	7.5	11	0
Hall, Charlie, Clev.	2	14	7.0	11	0
Blinka, Stan, N.Y.J.	2	12	6.0	8	0
Foley, Tim, Mia.	2	8	4.0	8	0
Ham, Jack, Pitt.	2	8	4.0	6	0
Harrison, Dwight, Balt.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Jackson, Monte, Oak.	2	5	2.5	5	0
Williams, Reggie, Cin.	2	5	2.5	3	0
Christopher, Herb, K.C.	2	1	0.5	1	0
Green, Sammy, Sea.	1	91	91.0	191	1
Sanford, Rick, N.E.	1	39	39.0	27	0
Beamon, Autry, Sea.	1	38	38.0	38	0
Jackson, Tom, Den.	1	34	34.0	34	0
Davis, Oliver, Clev.	1	33	33.0	33	0
Woodruff, Dwayne, Pitt.	1	31	31.0	31	0
Beaudoin, Doug, N.E.	1	30	30.0	30	0
Matthews, Clay, Clev.	1	30	30.0	30	0
Matheson, Bob, Mia.	1	28	28.0	28	0
Paul, Whitney, K.C.	1	28	28.0	28	0
West, Charlie, Den.	1	26	26.0	26	0
Hendricks, Ted, Oak.	1	23	23.0	123	0
Costick, Ray, N.E.	1	22	22.0	22	0
Greene, Doug, Buff.	1	21	21.0	21	0
Johnson, Ron, Pitt.	1	20	20.0	20	0

AFC PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS

Most—51, Rick Upchurch, Denver (1977)
Most Yds.—655, Neal Colzie, Oakland (1975)
Longest—95 yds., Les Duncan, San Diego (1968)

	No	FC	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	28	14	306	10.9	186	1
Smith, J.T., K.C.	58	10	612	10.6	188	2
Hall, Dino, Clev.	29	5	295	10.2	47	0
Upchurch, Rick, Den.	30	4	304	10.1	44	0
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	29	21	289	10.0	180	1
Fuller, Mike, S.D.	46	7	448	9.7	27	0
Smith, Jim, Pitt.	16	1	146	9.1	38	0
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	33	9	290	8.8	51	0
Bell, Theo, Pitt.	45	7	378	8.4	27	0
Moody, Keith, Buff.	38	10	318	8.4	32	0
Lusby, Vaughn, Cin.	32	4	260	8.1	40	0
Glasgow, Nesby, Balt.	44	11	352	8.0	175	1
Green, Tony, N.Y.G.-Sea.	19	9	138	7.3	30	0
Ellender, Richard, Hou.	31	2	203	6.5	36	0
Matthews, Ira, Oak.	32	7	165	5.2	20	0
(Non-Qualifiers)						
Wright, Keith, Clev.	12	6	50	4.2	13	0
Moore, Jeff, Sea.	10	1	90	9.0	29	0
Harris, John, Sea.	8	2	70	8.8	19	0
Levenseller, Mike, Cin.	8	2	46	5.8	21	0



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Preston, Dave, Den.	7	1	78	11.1	22	0
Pane, Chris, Den.	5	3	20	4.0	10	0
Haynes, Mike, N.E.	5	1	16	3.2	5	0
Johnson, Billy, Hou.	4	0	17	4.3	16	0
Blackwood, Lyle, Balt.	4	1	-1	-0.3	2	0
Kozlowski, Mike, Mia.	3	4	21	7.0	11	0
Williams, Mike, S.D.	3	0	19	6.3	10	0
Schroy, Ken, N.Y.J.	2	0	24	12.0	19	0
Shaw, Pete, S.D.	2	2	21	10.5	11	0
Cefalo, Jimmy, Mia.	2	3	10	5.0	10	0
Brunson, Larry, Oak.	2	0	8	4.0	7	0
Merkens, Guido, Hou.	2	5	6	3.0	6	0
Westbrook, Don, N.E.	2	0	5	2.5	5	0
Thompson, Norm, Balt.	1	0	40	40.0	40	0
Jauron, Dick, Cin.	1	2	10	10.0	10	0
Davis, Mike, Oak.	1	0	6	6.0	6	0
Sanford, Rick, N.E.	1	0	1	1.0	1	0
Babb, Charlie, Mia.	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Burk, Scott, Cin.	1	1	0	0.0	0	0
Darby, Paul, N.Y.J.	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Dornbrook, Thom, Pitt.	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Goode, Don, S.D.	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Swann, Lynn, Pitt.	1	3	-1	-1.0	-1	0
West, Charlie, Den.	1	0	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Coleman, Ronnie, Hou.	1	0	-5	-5.0	-5	0
Jones, Bobby, N.Y.J.	0	1	0	—	0	0
Newsome, Ozzie, Clev.	0	1	0	—	0	0
Piccone, Lou, Buff.	0	1	0	—	0	0
Thompson, Ted, Hou.	0	1	0	—	0	0
Burrell, Clinton, Clev.	0	2	0	—	0	0
Moore, Nat, Mia.	0	6	0	—	0	0

AFC KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Most—47, Odell Barry, Denver (1964)

Most Yds.—1317, Bobby Jancik, Houston (1963)

Most TD's—3, Ray Clayborn, New England (1977)

Longest—106 yds., Nolan Smith, K.C. (1967)

	No	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Brunson, Larry, Oak.	17	441	25.9	89	0
Matthews, Ira, Oak.	35	873	24.9	1104	1
Owens, Artie, S.D.	35	791	22.6	40	0
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	45	1016	22.6	43	0
Glasgow, Nesby, Balt.	50	1126	22.5	58	0
Clark, Allan, N.E.	37	816	22.1	38	0
Anderson, Larry, Pitt.	34	732	21.5	44	0
Ellender, Richard, Hou.	24	514	21.4	35	0
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	55	1158	21.1	52	0
Belton, Horace, K.C.	22	463	21.0	52	0
Turner, David, Cin.	55	1149	20.9	36	0
Moore, Jeff, Sea.	31	641	20.7	39	0
Moody, Keith, Buff.	27	556	20.6	35	0
Green, Tony, N.Y.G.-Sea.	32	651	20.3	31	0
Hall, Dino, Clev.	50	1014	20.3	33	0
Coleman, Ronnie, Hou.	16	321	20.1	27	0
Pane, Chris, Den.	18	354	19.7	30	0
(Non-Qualifiers)					
Wright, Keith, Clev.	15	402	26.8	45	0
Hunter, Al, Sea.	15	299	19.9	30	0
Preston, Dave, Den.	13	336	25.8	37	0
Hartwig, Carter, Hou.	13	238	18.3	37	0
Anderson, Anthony, Pitt.	13	200	15.4	26	0
Gauntly, Steve, K.C.	12	271	22.6	50	0
Westbrook, Don, N.E.	11	151	13.7	30	0
Sanford, Rick, N.E.	10	179	17.9	23	0
Miller, Terry, Buff.	8	160	20.0	24	0
Garry, Ben, Balt.	8	135	16.9	24	0
Dirden, Johnnie, K.C.	7	154	22.0	32	0
Jones, Bobby, N.Y.J.	7	140	20.0	36	0
Collier, Mike, Buff.	7	129	18.4	27	0
Poole, Nathan, Cin.	7	128	18.3	24	0
Schroy, Ken, N.Y.J.	6	179	29.8	51	0
Fuller, Mike, S.D.	6	115	19.2	41	0
Powell, Steve, Buff.	6	97	16.2	36	0
Lusby, Vaughn, Cin.	6	92	15.3	28	0
Browner, Jim, Cin.	6	87	14.5	26	0
Upchurch, Rick, Den.	5	79	15.8	26	0
Whittington, Arthur, Oak.	5	46	9.2	19	0
Bauer, Hank, S.D.	4	92	23.0	31	0
Willis, Len, Buff.	4	92	23.0	33	0
Kozlowski, Mike, Mia.	4	85	21.3	28	0
Gant, Earl, K.C.	4	75	18.8	20	0
Kurnick, Howard, Cin.	4	60	15.0	20	0
Jackson, Bernard, Den.	4	53	13.3	21	0
Johnson, Billy, Hou.	4	37	9.3	12	0
Dixon, Zachary, Den.	3	53	17.7	24	0
Brown, Curtis, Buff.	3	42	14.0	22	0
Blackwood, Lyle, Balt.	3	41	13.7	19	0
Piccone, Lou, Buff.	3	41	13.7	17	0
Laird, Bruce, Balt.	3	34	11.3	16	0
Canada, Larry, Den.	3	31	10.3	18	0
Russell, Booker, Oak.	3	21	7.0	9	0
Tatupu, Mosi, N.E.	3	15	5.0	12	0

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Arkansas	Kentucky	Pittsburgh	Washington St.
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Baylor	Maryland	Rice	Wisconsin
Boston Col.	Miami	S. Carolina	Wyoming
B. Y. U.	Michigan	Southern Cal.	1966 Notre Dame
California	Michigan St.	S. M. U.	1969 Tennessee
Clemson	Minnesota	Stanford	1971 Oklahoma
Colorado	Mississippi	Syracuse	1971 Nebraska
Duke	Miss. State	Tennessee	1972 U. S. C.
Florida	Missouri	Texas	1973 Notre Dame
Florida St.	Navy	Texas A & M	1974 Alabama
Georgia	Nebraska	T. C. U.	1975 Ohio State
Ga. Tech	N. Carolina	Texas Tech	1976 Pittsburgh
Houston	N. Carolina St	Tulane	1977 Texas
Illinois	Northwestern	U. C. L. A.	1978 U. S. C.
	Notre Dame		1978 Alabama

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1973-74 NBA & ABA Set of 264	\$ 9.95	<input type="checkbox"/>
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NFC statistics

1979

PASSING

RECORDS

Most completions—345, Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota (1978)
 Most TD's—36, Y.A. Tittle, Giants (1963)
 Most Yds.—3747, Sonny Jurgensen, Washington (1967)
 Longest for TD—99 yards, Frank Filchock, Washington, to Andy Farkas (1939); George Izo, Washington, to Bobby Mitchell (1963); Carl Sweetan, Detroit, to Pat Studstill (1966); Sonny Jurgensen, Washington, to Gerry Allen (1968).

NFC INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	Avg	TD	Pct	Long	Int	Pct	Rating
			Comp		Gain		TD			Int	Points
Staubach, Roger, Dall.	461	267	57.9	3586	7.78	27	5.9	175	11	2.4	92.4
Theismann, Joe, Wash.	395	233	59.0	2797	7.08	20	5.1	62	13	3.3	84.0
Jaworski, Ron, Phil.	374	190	50.8	2669	7.14	18	4.8	153	12	3.2	76.8
Manning, Archie, N.O.	420	252	60.0	3169	7.55	15	3.6	85	20	4.8	75.6
DeBerg, Steve, S.F.	578	347	60.0	3652	6.32	17	2.9	50	21	3.6	73.1
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	566	315	55.7	3397	6.00	23	4.1	155	24	4.2	69.7
Phipps, Mike, Chi.	255	134	52.5	1535	6.02	9	3.5	168	8	3.1	69.7
Haden, Pat, L.A.	290	163	56.2	1854	6.39	11	3.8	50	14	4.8	68.2
Barkowski, Steve, Atl.	380	204	53.7	2505	6.59	17	4.5	57	20	5.3	67.2
Simms, Phil, N.Y.G.	265	134	50.6	1743	6.58	13	4.9	61	14	5.3	65.9
Whitehurst, David, G.B.	322	179	55.6	2247	6.98	10	3.1	178	18	5.6	64.5
Hart, Jim, St.L.	378	194	51.3	2218	5.87	9	2.4	151	20	5.3	55.2
Williams, Doug, T.B.	397	166	41.8	2448	6.17	18	4.5	166	24	6.0	52.6
Komlo, Jeff, Det.	368	183	49.7	2238	6.08	11	3.0	40	23	6.3	52.6

NFC NON-QUALIFIERS

Lee, Bob, L.A.	22	11	50.0	243	11.05	2	9.1	141	1	4.5	101.4
Walton, John, Phil.	36	19	52.8	213	5.92	3	8.3	31	1	2.8	86.8
Montana, Joe, S.F.	23	13	56.5	96	4.17	1	4.3	18	0	0.0	80.9
Morosi, Mike, Atl.	15	8	53.3	97	6.47	0	0.0	23	0	0.0	73.5
Dickey, Lynn, G.B.	119	60	50.4	787	6.61	5	4.2	152	4	3.4	71.5
Hunter, Scott, Det.	41	18	43.9	321	7.83	1	2.4	82	1	2.4	69.3
Reed, Joe, Det.	32	14	43.8	164	5.13	2	6.3	50	1	3.1	68.1
Evans, Vince, Chi.	63	32	50.8	508	8.06	4	6.3	165	5	7.9	66.1
Avellini, Bob, Chi.	51	27	52.9	310	6.08	2	3.9	154	3	5.9	59.9
Pisarkiewicz, Steve, St.L.	109	52	47.7	621	5.70	3	2.8	178	4	3.7	59.5
White, Danny, Dall.	39	19	48.7	267	6.85	1	2.6	45	2	5.1	58.6
Jones, June, Atl.	83	38	45.8	505	6.08	2	2.4	49	3	3.6	58.6
Rae, Mike, T.B.	36	17	47.2	252	7.00	1	2.8	29	2	5.6	56.6
Ferragamo, Vince, L.A.	110	53	48.2	778	7.07	5	4.5	171	10	9.1	48.8
Pisarcik, Joe, N.Y.G.	108	43	39.8	537	4.97	2	1.9	48	6	5.6	39.0
Rutledge, Jeff, L.A.	32	13	40.6	125	3.91	1	3.1	22	4	12.5	23.0
Dean, Randy, N.Y.G.	26	11	42.3	91	3.50	0	0.0	20	2	7.7	19.8

NFC PUNTING

RECORDS

Most—109, John James, Atlanta (1978)
 Best Avg.—51.4, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)
 Longest—94 yds., Wilbur Henry, Canton (1923)

	Net										
	Punts	Yards	Long	Avg	Total	TB	Blk	Opp	Ret	In	Net
					Punts			Ret	Yds	20	Avg
Jennings, Dave, N.Y.G.	104	4445	72	42.7	104	9	0	60	447	19	36.7
White, Danny, Dall.	76	3168	73	41.7	76	9	0	34	252	21	36.0
Partridge, Rick, N.O.	57	2330	61	40.9	57	7	0	24	164	15	35.5
Beverly, David, G.B.	69	2785	65	40.4	69	4	0	43	305	11	34.8
Clark, Ken, L.A.	93	3731	60	40.1	95	7	2	59	405	17	33.5
Swider, Larry, Det.	88	3523	72	40.0	88	7	0	52	435	13	33.5
James, John, Atl.	83	3296	62	39.7	84	4	1	41	259	12	35.2
Blanchard, Tom, T.B.	93	3679	58	39.6	95	25	2	47	270	14	30.6
Runager, Max, Phil.	74	2927	57	39.6	75	6	1	34	200	13	34.8
Coleman, Greg, Minn.	90	3551	70	39.5	91	9	1	48	354	23	33.2
Little, Steve, St. L.	79	3060	63	38.7	81	6	2	45	378	17	31.6
Bragg, Mike, Wash.	78	2998	74	38.4	78	10	0	29	135	12	34.1
Parsons, Bob, Chi.	92	3486	54	37.9	93	6	1	54	404	26	31.8
Melville, Dan, S.F.	71	2676	53	37.0	72	10	1	37	262	15	30.1

Leader based on gross average, minimum 40 punts

NFC SCORING

RECORDS

Points—176, Paul Hornung, G.B. (1960)
 TD's—22, Gale Sayers, Chicago (1965)
 22, Chuck Foreman, Minnesota (1975)
 FG's—33, Chester Marcol, Green Bay (1972)
 XP—56, Danny Villanueva, Dallas (1966)

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Moseley, Mark, Wash.	39	39	25	33	114
Franklin, Tony, Phil.	36	29	23	31	105
Septien, Rafael, Dall.	40	44	19	29	97
Wersching Ray, S.F.	32	35	20	24	92
Thomas, Bob, Chi.	34	37	16	27	82
Corral, Frank, L.A.	36	39	13	25	75
Yepremian, Garo, N.O.	39	40	12	16	75
Mazzetti, Tim, Atl.	31	37	13	25	70
Danmeier, Rick, Minn.	28	30	13	22	67
O'Donoghue, Neil, T.B.	30	35	11	19	63
Danelo, Joe, N.Y.G.	28	29	9	20	55
Ricardo, Benny, Det.	25	26	10	18	55
Little, Steve, St. L.	24	32	10	19	54
Birney, Tom, G.B.	7	10	7	9	28
Marcol, Chester, G.B.	16	18	4	10	28
Erxleben, Russell, N.O.	4	4	2	2	10
Galbreath, Tony, N.O.	1	2	2	3	7
Anderson, John, G.B.	1	2	1	1	4

NON-KICKERS

	TD	R	P	M	PTS
Payton, Walter, Chi.	16	14	2	0	96
Montgomery, Wilbert, Phil.	14	9	5	0	84
Riggins, John, Wash.	12	9	3	0	72
Carmichael, Harold, Phil.	11	0	11	0	66
Muncie, Chuck, N.O.	11	11	0	0	66
Taylor, Billy, N.Y.G.	11	7	4	0	66
Anderson, Otis, St. L.	10	8	2	0	60
Galbreath, Tony, N.O.	10	9	1	0	60
Hill, Tony, Dall.	10	0	10	0	60
Tyler, Wendell, L.A.	10	9	1	0	60
Bell, Ricky, T.B.	9	7	2	0	54
Hofer, Paul S.F.	9	7	2	0	54
Morris, Wayne, St. L.	9	8	1	0	54
Rashad, Ahmad, Minn.	9	0	9	0	54
Francis, Wallace, Atl.	8	0	8	0	48
Pearson, Drew, Dall.	8	0	8	0	48
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	8	1	7	0	48
Brown, Theotis, St. L.	7	7	0	0	42
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	7	6	1	0	42
Giles, Jimmy, T.B.	7	0	7	0	42
Young, Rickey, Minn.	7	3	4	0	42
Chandler, Wes, N.O.	6	0	6	0	36
Strachan, Mike, N.O.	6	6	0	0	36
Tilley, Pat, St. L.	6	0	6	0	36
Williams, David, Chi.	6	1	5	0	36
Andrews, William, Atl.	5	3	2	0	30
Bryant, Cullen L.A.	5	5	0	0	30
Childs, Henry, N.O.	5	0	5	0	30
DuPre, Billy Joe, Dall.	5	0	5	0	30
Harmon, Clarence, Wash.	5	0	5	0	30
Kane, Rick, Det.	5	4	1	0	30
Mucker, Larry, T.B.	5	0	5	0	30
Scott, Freddie, Det.	5	0	5	0	30
Stanback, Haskel, Atl.	5	5	0	0	30
Cain, Lynn, Atl.	4	2	2	0	24
Campfield, Billy, Phil.	4	3	0	1	24
Coffman, Paul, G.B.	4	0	4	0	24
Dennard, Preston, L.A.	4	0	4	0	24
Gray, Earnest, N.Y.G.	4	0	4	0	24
Lofton, James G.B.	4	0	4	0	24
MacAfee, Ken, S.F.	4	0	4	0	24

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Malone, Benny, Wash.	4	3	1	0	24
Newhouse, Robert, Dall.	4	3	1	0	24
Perkins, Johnny, N.Y.G.	4	0	4	0	24
Shumann, Mike, S.F.	4	0	4	0	24
Smith, Barty, G.B.	4	3	1	0	24
Theismann, Joe, Wash.	4	4	0	0	24
Thompson, Aundra, G.B.	4	0	3	1	24
Thompson, Ricky, Wash.	4	0	4	0	24
Watts, Rickey, Chi.	4	0	3	1	24
White, Sammy, Minn.	4	0	4	0	24
Whitehurst, David, G.B.	4	4	0	0	24
Elliott, Lenvil, S.F.	3	3	0	0	18
Fugett, Jean, Wash.	3	0	3	0	18
Hagins, Isaac, T.B.	3	0	3	0	18
Hill, David, Det.	3	0	3	0	18
Jenkins, Alfred, Atl.	3	0	3	0	18
Kotar, Doug, N.Y.G.	3	3	0	0	18
Krepfle, Keith, Phil.	3	0	3	0	18
Laidlaw, Scott, Dall.	3	3	0	0	18
Middleton, Terrell, G.B.	3	2	1	0	18
Nelson, Terry, L.A.	3	0	3	0	18
Scott, James, Chi.	3	0	3	0	18
Simpson, O.J., S.F.	3	3	0	0	18
Springs, Ron, Dall.	3	2	1	0	18
Torkelson, Eric, G.B.	3	3	0	0	18
Waddy, Billy, L.A.	3	0	3	0	18
Bartkowski, Steve, Atl.	2	2	0	0	12
Baschnagel, Brian, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12
Chandler, Al, St. L.	2	0	2	0	12
Davis, Johnny, T.B.	2	2	0	0	12
Eckwood, Jerry, T.B.	2	2	0	0	12
Foreman, Chuck, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
Harris, Ike, N.O.	2	0	2	0	12
Harris, Leroy, Phil.	2	2	0	0	12
Hill, Eddie, L.A.	2	1	1	0	12
Jackson, Wilbur, S.F.	2	2	0	0	12
Jaworski, Ron, Phil.	2	2	0	0	12
Jessie, Ron, L.A.	2	0	2	0	12
Komlo, Jeff, Det.	2	2	0	0	12
LeCount, Terry, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Manning, Archie, N.O.	2	2	0	0	12
Mayberry, James, Atl.	2	1	0	1	12
McDaniel, John, Wash.	2	0	2	0	12
Miller, Robert, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
Mitchell, Jim, Atl.	2	0	2	0	12
Pearson, Preston, Dall.	2	1	1	0	12
Robinson, Bo, Det.	2	2	0	0	12
Ryckman, Billy, Atl.	2	0	2	0	12
Shirk, Gary, N.Y.G.	2	0	2	0	12
Thompson, Leonard, Det.	2	0	2	0	12
Tucker, Bob, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Voight, Stu, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Williams, Doug, T.B.	2	2	0	0	12
Young, Charlie, L.A.	2	0	2	0	12
Youngblood, Jim, L.A.	2	0	0	2	12
Arneson, Mark, St.L.	1	0	0	1	6
Atkins, Steve, G.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Barnes, Benny, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Barnes, Larry, Phil.	1	1	0	0	6
Bean, Bubba, Atl.	1	1	0	0	6
Blue, Luther, Det.	1	0	1	0	6
Bordelon, Ken, N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
Brown, Ted, Minn.	1	1	0	0	6
Brown, Bob, S.F.	1	0	1	0	6
Bruer, Bob, S.F.	1	0	1	0	6
Buggs, Danny, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
Bussey, Dexter, Det.	1	1	0	0	6
Butler, Mike, G.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Byas, Rick, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Carson, Harry, N.Y.G.	1	0	0	1	6
Cromwell, Nolan, L.A.	1	1	0	0	6
Dean, Randy, N.Y.G.	1	1	0	0	6
Evans, Vince, Chi.	1	1	0	0	6
Fitzkee, Scott, Phil.	1	0	1	0	6
Forte, Ike, Wash.	1	1	0	0	6
Francis, Phil, S.F.	1	1	0	0	6
Gay, Bill, Det.	1	0	0	1	6
Gray, Mel, St. L.	1	0	1	0	6
Green, Roy, St. L.	1	0	0	1	6
Hardeman, Buddy, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
Hardy, Larry, N.O.	1	0	1	0	6
Harris, Joe, L.A.	1	0	0	1	6
Hicks, Tom, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6
Hill, Drew, L.A.	1	0	1	0	6
Hover, Don, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Hunter, Scott, Det.	1	1	0	0	6
Jackson, Terry, N.Y.G.	1	0	0	1	6
Jodat, Jim, L.A.	1	0	0	1	6
Johnson, Butch, Dall.	1	0	1	0	6
Johnson, Ken, N.Y.G.	1	0	1	0	6
Jones, Ernie, N.Y.G.	1	0	0	1	6
Jones, Gordon, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Justin, Sid, L.A.	1	0	0	1	6
King, Horace, Det.	1	1	0	0	6
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	1	1	0	0	6
Landers, Walt, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6

* = Safety ** = Scored XP on pass reception

Galbreath in both sections, total points 67

NFC RUSHING

RECORDS

Attempts—339, Walter Payton, Chicago (1977)
Most Yds.—1863, Jim Brown, Clevel. (1963)
Most TD's—19, Jim Taylor, G.B. (1962)

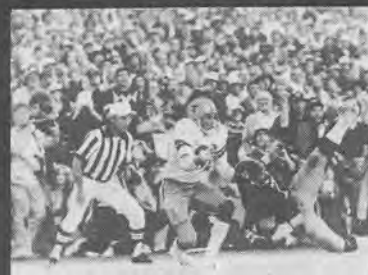
RUSHERS

	Att	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Payton, Walter, Chi.	369	1610	4.4	143	14
Anderson, Ottis, St.L.	331	1605	4.8	176	8
Montgomery, Wilbert, Phil.	338	1512	4.5	162	9
Bell, Ricky, T.B.	283	1263	4.5	49	7
Muncie, Chuck, N.O.	238	1198	5.0	169	11
Riggins, John, Wash.	260	1153	4.4	166	9
Tyler, Wendell, L.A.	218	1109	5.1	163	9
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	250	1107	4.4	41	6
Andrews, William, Atl.	239	1023	4.3	23	3
Young, Rickey, Minn.	188	708	3.8	26	3
Galbreath, Tony, N.O.	189	708	3.7	27	9
Taylor, Billy, N.Y.G.	198	700	3.5	31	7
Eckwood, Jerry, T.B.	194	690	3.6	161	2
Bussey, Dexter, Det.	144	625	4.3	38	1
Bryant, Cullen, L.A.	177	619	3.5	15	5
Kotar, Doug, N.Y.G.	160	616	3.9	32	3
Hofer, Paul, S.F.	123	615	5.0	47	7
Brown, Ted, Minn.	130	551	4.2	34	1
Harris, Leroy, Phil.	107	504	4.7	80	2
Middleton, Terrell, G.B.	131	495	3.8	28	2
Malone, Benny, Wash.	176	472	2.7	14	3
Simpson, O.J., S.F.	120	460	3.8	22	3
Newhouse, Robert, Dall.	124	449	3.6	21	3
Torkelson, Eric, G.B.	98	401	4.1	15	3
Williams, David, Chi.	127	401	3.2	16	1
Bean, Bubba, Atl.	88	393	4.5	160	1
Morris, Wayne, St.L.	106	387	3.7	16	8
Jackson, Wilbur, S.F.	114	375	3.3	16	2
Kane, Rick, Det.	94	332	3.5	126	4
Brown, Theotis, St.L.	73	318	4.4	130	7
Robinson, Bo, Det.	87	302	3.5	29	2
Cain, Lynn, Atl.	63	295	4.7	135	2
Strachan, Mike, N.O.	62	276	4.5	23	6
Harmon, Clarence, Wash.	65	267	4.1	18	0
Springs, Ron, Dall.	67	248	3.7	15	2
McCutcheon, Lawrence, L.A.	73	243	3.3	21	0
Atkins, Steve, G.B.	42	239	5.7	60	1
Laidlaw, Scott, Dall.	69	236	3.4	15	3
Simpson, Nate, G.B.	66	235	3.6	22	1
Peacock, Elvis, L.A.	52	224	4.3	15	0
Foreman, Chuck, Minn.	87	223	2.6	16	2
Davis, Johnny, T.B.	59	221	3.7	18	2
Stanback, Haskell, Atl.	36	202	5.6	155	5
Smith, Barty, G.B.	57	201	3.5	23	3
Mayberry, James, Atl.	45	193	4.3	21	1
Manning, Archie, N.O.	35	186	5.3	20	2
Theismann, Joe, Wash.	46	181	3.9	22	4
Staubach, Roger, Dall.	37	172	4.6	20	0
Johnson, Ken, N.Y.G.	62	168	2.7	12	0
Simms, Phil, N.Y.G.	29	166	5.7	27	1
Camfield, Billy, Phil.	30	165	5.5	40	3
McClendon, Willie, Chi.	37	160	4.3	33	1
King, Horace, Det.	39	160	4.1	23	1
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	32	138	4.3	20	1
Elliott, Lenvil, S.F.	33	135	4.1	12	3
Patton, Ricky, Atl.-G.B.	40	135	3.4	14	0
Earl, Robin, Chi.	35	132	3.8	12	0
Forte, Ike, Wash.	25	125	5.0	120	1
Hardeman, Buddy, Wash.	31	124	4.0	22	0
Williams, Doug, T.B.	35	119	3.4	16	2
Jaworski, Ron, Phil.	43	119	2.8	21	2
Francis, Phil, S.F.	31	118	3.8	16	1
Hill, Eddie, L.A.	29	114	3.9	27	1
Miller, Robert, Minn.	35	109	3.1	20	2
Komlo, Jeff, Det.	30	107	3.6	16	2
Berns, Rick, T.B.	23	102	4.4	16	0
Harrell, Willard, St.L.	19	100	5.3	19	0
Haden, Pat, L.A.	16	97	6.1	17	0
Moorehead, Emery, N.Y.G.	36	95	2.6	11	0
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	6	85	14.2	156	1
Barnes, Larry, Phil.	25	74	3.0	21	1
Whitehurst, David, G.B.	18	73	4.1	17	4
Evans, Vince, Chi.	12	72	6.0	17	1
Holmes, Jack, N.O.	17	68	4.0	14	0
Dean, Randy, N.Y.G.	8	56	7.0	19	1
Gaines, Lawrence, Det.	23	55	2.4	6	0
Phipps, Mike, Chi.	27	51	1.9	12	0
Phillips, Rod, St.L.	3	50	16.7	17	1
Lott, Thomas, St.L.	11	50	4.5	13	0
Brinson, Larry, Dall.	14	48	3.4	10	0
Gray, Mel, St.L.	4	41	10.3	38	0
Landers, Walt, G.B.	17	41	2.4	14	0
Giammona, Louie, Phil.	15	38	2.5	9	0
Bartkowski, Steve, Atl.	14	36	2.6	18	2
Owens, James, S.F.	7	33	4.7	11	0
Ferrell, Bob, S.F.	8	33	4.1	8	0
Dennard, Preston, L.A.	4	32	8.0	15	0
Moroski, Mike, Atl.	3	31	10.3	19	1

11

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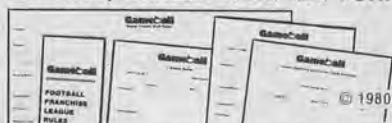
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NFC statistics

	Att	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Hogan, Mike, S.F.	9	31	3.4	6	0
McClanahan, Brent, Minn.	14	29	2.1	9	0
Pearson, Drew, Dall.	3	27	9.0	16	0
Rutledge, Jeff, L.A.	5	27	5.4	14	0
Wilson, Wayne, N.O.	5	26	5.2	16	0
White, Danny, Dall.	1	25	25.0	25	0
Washington, Gene, Det.	1	24	24.0	24	0
Ivery, Eddie Lee, G.B.	3	24	8.0	11	0
Thompson, Leonard, Det.	5	24	4.8	16	0
Montana, Joe, S.F.	3	22	7.3	13	0
Scott, Freddie, Det.	6	21	3.5	18	0
Pisarkiewicz, Steve, St.L.	11	20	1.8	12	0
Shumann, Mike, S.F.	1	19	19.0	19	0
DuPree, Billy Joe, Dall.	2	19	9.5	20	0
Jones, June, Atl.	6	19	3.2	9	0
Hill, Tony, Dall.	2	18	9.0	12	0
Deloplane, Jack, Chi.	7	18	2.6	6	0
Perrin, Lonnie, Wash.-Chi.	7	18	2.6	5	0
Wagner, Steve, G.B.	1	16	16.0	16	0
Mucker, Larry, T.B.	4	16	4.0	16	0
Hill, David, Det.	1	15	15.0	15	0
LeMaster, Frank, Phil.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Buffone, Doug, Chi.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Pearson, Preston, Dall.	7	14	2.0	1	1
Johnson, Butch, Dall.	1	13	13.0	13	0
Dickey, Lynn, G.B.	5	13	2.6	8	0
Jones, Gordon, T.B.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Jennings, Dave, N.Y.G.	2	11	5.5	9	0
Reed, Joe, Det.	2	11	5.5	11	0
Hart, Jim, St.L.	6	11	1.8	12	0
Avellini, Bob, Chi.	3	10	3.3	5	0
Skibinski, John, Chi.	3	10	3.3	4	0
DeBerg, Steve, S.F.	17	10	0.6	8	0
Harris, Ike, N.O.	2	9	4.5	16	0
Culbreath, Jim, G.B.	5	8	1.6	6	0
Giles, Jimmie, T.B.	2	7	3.5	9	0
Strong, Ray, Atl.	2	7	3.5	4	0
Pisarcik, Joe, N.Y.G.	1	6	6.0	6	0
White, Sammy, Minn.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Callicutt, Ken, Det.	3	6	2.0	10	0
Jodat, Jim, L.A.	6	6	1.0	4	0
Cromwell, Nolan, L.A.	1	5	5.0	15	1
Hammond, Bobby, Wash.	2	5	2.5	3	0
Jones, Kim, N.O.	3	5	1.7	3	0
Ragsdale, George, T.B.	6	5	0.8	3	0
Miller, Willie, L.A.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Clark, Ken, L.A.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Hunter, Scott, Det.	2	3	1.5	2	1
Rae, Mike, T.B.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Gray, Earnest, N.Y.G.	1	2	1.0	9	0
Blanchard, Tom, T.B.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Carmichael, Harold, Phil.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Golsteyn, Jerry, Det.	1	0	0.0	0	0
James, John, Atl.	1	0	0.0	0	0
O'Neil, Ed, Det.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Swider, Larry, Det.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Little, Steve, St.L.	2	0	0.0	0	0

NFC PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Most caught—93, John Morris, Chicago (1964)

Most Yds.—1495, Elroy Hirsch, L.A. (1951)

Most TD's—17, Don Hutson, G.B. (1942)

17, Elroy Hirsch, L.A. (1951)

	No	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Rashad, Ahmad, Minn.	80	1156	14.5	152	9
Francis, Wallace, Atl.	74	1013	13.7	42	8
Young, Rickey, Minn.	72	519	7.2	18	4
Chandler, Wes, N.O.	65	1069	16.4	85	6
Scott, Freddie, Det.	62	929	15.0	50	5
Hill, Tony, Dall.	60	1062	17.7	175	10
Hofer, Paul, S.F.	58	662	11.4	44	2
Galbreath, Tony, N.O.	58	484	8.3	38	1
Tilley, Pat, St.L.	57	938	16.5	151	6
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	57	807	14.2	144	7
Coffman, Paul, G.B.	56	711	12.7	178	4
Pearson, Drew, Dall.	55	1026	18.7	156	8
Lofton, James, G.B.	54	968	17.9	52	4
Jackson, Wilbur, S.F.	53	422	8.0	34	0
Carmichael, Harold, Phil.	52	872	16.8	50	11
Childs, Henry, N.O.	51	846	16.6	51	5
Jenkins, Alfred, Atl.	50	858	17.2	57	3
Hill, David, Det.	47	569	12.1	40	3
Buggs, Danny, Wash.	46	631	13.7	45	1
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	45	375	8.3	32	1
Dennard, Preston, L.A.	43	766	17.8	50	4
White, Sammy, Minn.	42	715	17.0	155	4
Williams, David, Chi.	42	354	8.4	154	5
Kreplie, Keith, Phil.	41	760	18.5	45	3
Montgomery, Wilbert, Phil.	41	494	12.0	153	5

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Anderson, Otis, St. L.	41	308	7.5	28	2
Giles, Jimmie, T.B.	40	579	14.5	166	7
Muncie, Chuck, N.O.	40	308	7.7	28	0
Hagins, Isaac, T.B.	39	692	17.7	57	3
Shumann, Mike, S.F.	39	452	11.6	39	4
Andrews, William, Atl.	39	309	7.9	34	2
Morris, Wayne, St. L.	35	237	6.8	20	1
Harmon, Clarence, Wash.	32	434	13.6	40	5
Tyler, Wendell, L.A.	32	308	9.6	171	1
Francis, Phil, S.F.	32	198	6.2	19	0
Shirk, Gary, N.Y.G.	31	471	15.2	61	2
Payton, Walter, Chi.	31	313	10.1	165	2
Bryant, Cullen, L.A.	31	227	7.3	24	0
Brown, Ted, Minn.	31	197	6.4	35	0
Baschnagel, Brian, Chi.	30	452	15.1	154	2
DuPree, Billy Joe, Dall.	29	324	11.2	33	5
Gray, Earnest, N.Y.G.	28	537	19.2	153	4
Taylor, Billy, N.Y.G.	28	253	9.0	43	4
Riggins, John, Wash.	28	163	5.8	23	3
Pearson, Preston, Dall.	26	333	12.8	126	1
Warren, Don, Wash.	26	303	11.7	23	0
Bruer, Bob, S.F.	26	254	9.8	19	1
Gray, Mel, St. L.	25	447	17.9	178	1
Harris, Ike, N.O.	25	395	15.8	42	2
Thompson, Aundra, G.B.	25	395	15.8	50	3
McDaniel, John, Wash.	25	357	14.3	62	2
Nelson, Terry, L.A.	25	293	11.7	26	3
Springs, Ron, Dall.	25	251	10.0	27	1
Bell, Ricky, T.B.	25	248	9.9	26	2
Kotar, Doug, N.Y.G.	25	230	9.2	37	0
Brown, Theotis, St. L.	25	191	7.6	19	0
Thompson, Leonard, Del.	24	451	18.8	82	2
Watts, Rickey, Chi.	24	421	17.5	168	3
Smith, Charles, Phil.	24	399	16.6	39	1
MacAfee, Ken, S.F.	24	266	11.1	50	4
Tucker, Bob, Minn.	24	223	9.3	21	2
Elliott, Lenvil, S.F.	23	197	8.6	30	0
Thompson, Ricky, Wash.	22	368	16.7	35	4
Stief, Dave, St. L.	22	324	14.7	32	0
Eckwood, Jerry, T.B.	22	268	12.2	31	0
Harris, Leroy, Phil.	22	107	4.9	15	0
Scott, James, Chi.	21	382	18.2	64	3
Peacock, Elvis, L.A.	21	261	12.4	49	0
Hardeman, Buddy, Wash.	21	197	9.4	141	1
Owens, Morris, T.B.	20	377	18.9	64	0
Perkins, Johnny, N.Y.G.	20	337	16.9	138	4
Smith, Barty, G.B.	19	155	8.2	22	1
Foreman, Chuck, Minn.	19	147	7.7	22	0
Torkelson, Eric, G.B.	19	139	7.3	14	0
McCutcheon, Lawrence, L.A.	19	101	5.3	11	0
Clark, Dwight, S.F.	18	232	12.9	30	0
Middleton, Terrell, G.B.	18	155	8.6	29	1
King, Horace, Del.	18	150	8.3	30	0
Smith, Ron, L.A.	16	300	18.8	38	1
Mitchell, Jim, Atl.	16	118	7.4	14	2
Campfield, Billy, Phil.	16	115	7.2	17	0
Johnson, Ken, N.Y.G.	16	108	6.8	15	1
Cain, Lynn, Atl.	15	181	12.1	28	2
Voight, Stu, Minn.	15	139	9.3	18	2
Latta, Greg, Chi.	15	131	8.7	25	0
Bussey, Dexter, Del.	15	102	6.8	22	0
Mucker, Larry, T.B.	14	268	19.1	142	5
Scales, Dwight, N.Y.G.	14	222	15.9	55	0
Waddy, Billy, L.A.	14	220	15.7	140	3
Washington, Gene, Del.	14	192	13.7	129	1
Saldi, Jay, Dall.	14	181	12.9	123	1
Parris, Gary, St. L.	14	174	12.4	39	0
Robinson, Bo, Del.	14	118	8.4	14	0
Robinson, Jimmy, N.Y.G.	13	146	11.2	31	0
Young, Charlie, L.A.	13	144	11.1	23	2
Malone, Benny, Wash.	13	137	10.5	155	1
Stanback, Haskel, Atl.	13	89	6.8	22	0
Bean, Bubba, Atl.	12	137	11.4	49	0
Laidlaw, Scott, Dall.	12	59	4.9	12	0
Jessie, Ron, L.A.	11	169	15.4	139	2
Jackson, Alfred, Atl.	11	156	14.2	23	0
Simpson, Nate, G.B.	11	46	4.2	10	0
Tullis, Walter, G.B.	10	173	17.3	152	1
Fugett, Jean, Wash.	10	128	12.8	130	3
Owens, James, S.F.	10	121	12.1	17	0
Forté, Ike, Wash.	10	105	10.5	22	0
Atkins, Steve, G.B.	10	89	8.9	19	0
McClanahan, Brent, Minn.	10	57	5.7	9	0
Kane, Rick, Del.	9	104	11.6	36	1
Hogan, Mike, S.F.	9	65	7.2	27	0
Moorehead, Emery, N.Y.G.	9	62	6.9	19	0
Miller, Robert, Minn.	9	60	6.7	14	0
Miller, Willie, L.A.	8	111	13.9	23	1
Fitzkee, Scott, Phil.	8	105	13.1	19	1
Blue, Luther, Del.	8	102	12.8	26	1
Childs, Jim, St. L.	8	93	11.6	22	0
Earl, Robin, Chi.	8	56	7.0	19	0
Pearson, Dennis, Atl.	7	119	17.0	40	0
Owens, Tinker, N.O.	7	72	10.3	21	1
Newhouse, Robert, Dall.	7	55	7.9	121	1
Mayberry, James, Atl.	7	48	6.9	19	0

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NFC statistics

	No	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Hill, Eddie, L.A.	4	36	9.0	121	1
Wilson, Steve, Dall.	3	76	25.3	45	0
Seal, Paul, S.F.	3	34	11.3	14	0
Harrell, Willard, St. L.	3	33	11.0	15	0
Ragsdale, George, T.B.	3	28	9.3	19	0
Holmes, Jack, N.O.	3	19	6.3	13	0
Strachan, Mike, N.O.	3	9	3.0	5	0
Mauti, Rich, N.O.	2	64	32.0	61	0
Schubert, Steve, Chi.	2	29	14.5	15	0
Spagnola, John, Phil.	2	24	12.0	14	0
Williams, Brooks, N.O.	2	22	11.0	14	0
Murrell, Bill, St. L.	2	20	10.0	14	0
Dixon, Al, N.Y.G.	2	18	9.0	11	0
Callicutt, Ken, Det.	2	16	8.0	11	0
Hammond, Bobby, Wash.	2	16	8.0	12	0
Deloplane, Jack, Chi.	2	13	6.5	15	0
Lott, Thomas, St. L.	2	8	4.0	5	0
Ferrell, Bob, S.F.	2	4	2.0	3	0
Perrin, Lonnie, Chi.	1	27	27.0	27	0
Gueno, Jim, G.B.	1	23	23.0	23	0
Buffone, Doug, Chi.	1	22	22.0	22	0
Glazebrook, Bob, Atl.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Van Pelt, Brad, N.Y.G.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Green, Roy, St. L.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Mikeska, Russ, Atl.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Steele, Robert, Minn.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Jackson, Cleveland, N.Y.G.	1	7	7.0	7	0
McCreary, Laird, N.Y.G.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Barnes, Larry, Phil.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Strong, Ray, Atl.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Skibinski, John, Chi.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Hardy, Larry, N.O.	1	3	3.0	13	1
Andrews, George, L.A.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Carr, Earl, Phil.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Edwards, Jimmy, Minn.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Danelo, Joe, N.Y.G.	1	1	1.0	1	0
Bolinger, Russ, Det.	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
McRae, Jerrold, Phil.	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0
Hart, Jim, St. L.	1	-4	-4.0	-4	0
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	0	3	-	3	0

TOP 25 PASS RECEIVERS BY YARDS

	Yards	No	Avg	Lng	TD
Rashad, Ahmad, Minn.	1156	80	14.5	152	9
Chandler, Wes, N.O.	1069	65	16.4	85	6
Hill, Tony, Dall.	1062	60	17.7	175	10
Pearson, Drew, Dall.	1026	55	18.7	156	8
Francis, Wallace, Atl.	1013	74	13.7	42	8
Lofton, James, G.B.	968	54	17.9	52	4
Tilley, Pat, St. L.	938	57	16.5	151	6
Scott, Freddie, Det.	929	62	15.0	50	5
Carmichael, Harold, Phil.	872	52	16.8	50	11
Jenkins, Alfred, Atl.	858	50	17.2	57	3
Childs, Henry, N.O.	846	51	16.6	51	5
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	807	57	14.2	144	7
Dennard, Preston, L.A.	766	43	17.8	50	4
Kreple, Keith, Phil.	760	41	18.5	45	3
White, Sammy, Minn.	715	42	17.0	155	4
Coffman, Paul, G.B.	711	56	12.7	178	4
Hagins, Isaac, T.B.	692	39	17.7	57	3
Hofer, Paul, S.F.	662	58	11.4	44	2
Buggs, Danny, Wash.	631	46	13.7	45	1
Giles, Jimmie, T.B.	579	40	14.5	166	7
Hill, David, Det.	569	47	12.1	40	3
Gray, Earnest, N.Y.G.	537	28	19.2	153	4
Young, Rickey, Minn.	519	72	7.2	18	4
Montgomery, Wilbert, Phil.	494	41	12.0	153	5
Galbreath, Tony, N.O.	484	58	8.3	38	1

NFC INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS

Most—14, Dick Lane, Los Angeles (1952)

Most Yds.—301, Don Doll, Detroit (1939)

Most TD's—3, Dick Lynch, Glants (1963)

3, Herb Adderley, Green Bay (1965)

3, Lem Barney, Detroit (1967)

3, Monte Jackson, Los Angeles (1976)

3, Rod Perry, Los Angeles (1978)

	No	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Parrish, Lemar, Wash.	9	65	7.2	23	0
Meyers, Tom, N.O.	7	127	18.1	152	1
Lawrence, Roland, Atl.	6	120	20.0	38	0
Lavender, Joe, Wash.	6	77	12.8	27	0
Stone, Ken, St. L.	6	70	11.7	30	0
Schmidt, Terry, Chi.	6	44	7.3	120	1
Fencik, Gary, Chi.	6	31	5.2	17	0
Allen, Carl, St. L.	5	126	25.2	78	0
Cromwell, Nolan, L.A.	5	109	21.8	34	0
Youngblood, Jim, L.A.	5	89	17.8	134	2

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Gray, Johnnie, G.B.	5	66	13.2	35	0
Hicks, Dwight, S.F.	5	57	11.4	29	0
Hannon, Tom, Minn.	4	85	21.3	52	0
Wilson, Brenard, Phil.	4	70	17.5	50	0
Hughes, Pat, N.O.	4	62	15.5	40	0
Felton, Eric, N.O.	4	53	13.3	53	0
Wright, Nate, Minn.	4	44	11.0	32	0
O'Steen, Dwayne, L.A.	4	42	10.5	36	0
Williams, Gerard, S.F.	4	38	9.5	22	0
Bradley, Luther, Det.	4	11	2.8	11	0
Allen, Jimmy, Det.	4	0	0.0	0	0
Hicks, Tom, Chi.	3	85	28.3	166	1
Brown, Cedric, T.B.	3	79	26.3	72	0
Douglass, Mike, G.B.	3	73	24.3	46	0
Ellis, Allan, Chi.	3	67	22.3	24	0
Washington, Mike, T.B.	3	64	21.3	149	1
McCoy, Mike, G.B.	3	60	20.0	38	0
Logan, Randy, Phil.	3	57	19.0	35	0
Cornelius, Charles, S.F.	3	54	18.0	54	0
Krause, Paul, Minn.	3	49	16.3	18	0
Kelley, Brian, N.Y.G.	3	41	13.6	16	0
Elmendorf, Dave, L.A.	3	39	13.0	32	0
White, Jeris, T.B.	3	39	13.0	39	0
Greene, Ken, St. L.	3	37	12.3	21	0
Howard, Bobby, Phil.	3	34	11.3	34	0
Plank, Doug, Chi.	3	33	11.0	22	0
Blair, Matt, Minn.	3	32	10.7	16	0
Brown, Eddie, L.A.	3	32	10.7	25	0
Murphy, Mark, Wash.	3	29	9.7	16	0
Carson, Harry, N.Y.G.	3	28	9.3	14	0
Jackson, Terry, N.Y.G.	3	10	3.3	10	0
Edwards, Herman, Phil.	3	6	2.0	6	0
Hunter, James, Det.	3	6	2.0	6	0
Thomas, Pat, L.A.	3	5	1.7	5	0
Hughes, Randy, Dall.	2	91	45.5	68	0
Bryant, Bobby, Minn.	2	50	25.0	29	0
Turner, John, Minn.	2	48	24.0	36	0
Sciarras, John, Phil.	2	47	23.5	34	0
Jones, Ernie, N.Y.G.	2	42	21.0	131	1
Livers, Virgil, Chi.	2	41	20.5	30	0
Chesley, Al, Phil.	2	39	19.5	25	0
Williams, Walt, Det.	2	39	19.5	136	1
Wood, Richard, T.B.	2	37	18.5	24	0
Harris, Cliff, Dall.	2	35	17.5	20	0
Schwartz, Don, N.O.	2	31	15.5	22	0
Knoff, Kurt, Minn.	2	25	12.5	15	0
Bordelon, Ken, N.O.	2	24	12.0	119	1
Barnes, Benny, Dall.	2	20	10.0	11	0
Pridemore, Tom, Atl.	2	20	10.0	20	0
Lewis, David, T.B.	2	19	9.5	11	0
Bunting, John, Phil.	2	13	6.5	13	0
Wingo, Rich, G.B.	2	13	6.5	13	0
Chapman, Clarence, N.O.	2	12	6.0	12	0
Buffone, Doug, Chi.	2	11	5.5	11	0
Lloyd, Dan, N.Y.G.	2	10	5.0	7	0
Hood, Estus, G.B.	2	8	4.0	6	0
Lewis, D.D., Dall.	2	8	4.0	5	0
Wehrli, Roger, St. L.	2	8	4.0	19	1
Easterling, Ray, Atl.	2	5	2.5	5	0
Qldham, Ray, N.Y.G.	2	4	2.0	4	0
Caldwell, Alan, N.Y.G.	2	2	1.0	2	0
Kyle, Aaron, Dall.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Reed, Frank, Atl.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Rhodes, Ray, N.Y.G.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Wilkes, Reggie, Phil.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Pennywell, Robert, Atl.	1	39	39.0	139	1
Gaines, Wentford, Chi.	1	38	38.0	38	0
Mitchell, Aaron, Dall.	1	36	36.0	36	0
Byas, Rick, Atl.	1	34	34.0	34	0
Campbell, Gary, Chi.	1	32	32.0	32	0
Gray, David, N.O.	1	32	32.0	32	0
Lorch, Karl, Wash.	1	31	31.0	131	1
Brudzinski, Bob, L.A.	1	26	26.0	26	0
McKinney, Odis, N.Y.G.	1	25	25.0	25	0
Williams, Eric, St. L.	1	25	25.0	25	0
Smith, Perry, St. L.	1	22	22.0	22	0
Gray, Tim, S.F.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Houston, Ken, Wash.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Studwell, Scott, Minn.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Weaver, Charlie, Det.	1	17	17.0	17	0
Walterscheid, Len, Chi.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Coleman, Monte, Wash.	1	13	13.0	13	0
Hunt, Mike, G.B.	1	13	13.0	13	0
Justin, Sid, L.A.	1	13	13.0	13	0
Luke, Steve, G.B.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Wysocki, Pete, Wash.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Mayberry, James, Atl.	1	6	6.0	16	1
McGill, Ralph, N.O.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Waddy, Ray, Wash.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Muckensturm, Jerry, Chi.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Federspiel, Joe, N.O.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Olkewicz, Neal, Wash.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Reece, Beasley, N.Y.G.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Thornton, Bruce, Dall.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Brown, Ray, N.O.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Bunz, Dan, S.F.	1	2	2.0	2	0

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NFC statistics

	No	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Allen, Nate, Minn.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Bergey, Bill, Phil.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Cotney, Mark, T.B.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Dusek, Brad, Wash.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Johnson, Charles, G.B.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Morgan, Melvin, S.F.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Thurman, Dennis, Dall.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Grooms, Elois, N.O.	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0
Peters, Tony, Wash.	1	-4	-4.0	-4	0

NFC PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS

Most—57, Eddie Brown, Washington (1977)
Most Yds.—646, Eddie Brown, Washington (1976)
Longest—98 yds., Gil Le Febvre, Cinn. (1933)
Charley West, Minn. (1968)
Dennis Morgan, Dallas (1974)

	No	FC	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Sclarra, John, Phil.	16	0	182	11.4	38	0
Schubert, Steve, Chi.	25	10	238	9.5	177	1
Henry, Wally, Phil.	35	7	320	9.1	34	0
Arnold, John, Det.	19	4	164	8.6	27	0
Hardeman, Buddy, Wash.	24	7	207	8.6	52	0
Mauti, Rich, N.O.	27	13	218	8.1	33	0
Wilson, Steve, Dall.	35	12	236	6.7	13	0
Harrell, Willard, St.L.	32	12	205	6.4	68	0
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	23	2	142	6.2	14	0
Reece, Danny, T.B.	70	1	431	6.2	17	0
Brown, Eddie, L.A.	56	19	332	5.9	30	0
Edwards, Jimmy, Minn.	33	2	186	5.6	42	0
Miller, Kevin, Minn.	18	2	85	4.7	14	0
Odom, Steve, G.B.-N.Y.G.	24	8	106	4.4	19	0
(Non-Qualifiers)						
Walterscheid, Len, Chi.	14	5	96	6.9	14	0
Hicks, Dwight, S.F.	13	3	120	9.2	33	0
Hammond, Bobby, N.Y.G.-Wash.	13	10	75	5.8	16	0
Gray, Johnnie, G.B.	13	8	61	4.7	18	0
Pearson, Dennis, Atl.	12	10	115	9.6	60	0
Ryckman, Billy, Atl.	12	5	72	6.0	15	0
Manning, Wade, Dall.	10	2	55	5.5	17	0
Thompson, Leonard, Det.	9	3	117	13.0	31	0
Dungy, Tony, S.F.	8	3	52	6.5	11	0
Ellis, Ken, Det.	8	0	43	5.4	15	0
Green, Roy, St.L.	8	3	42	5.3	14	0
Hill, Tony, Dall.	6	1	43	7.2	12	0
Robinson, Jimmy, N.Y.G.	6	4	29	4.8	13	0
Giammona, Louie, Phil.	5	0	42	8.4	14	0
Nelson, Lee, St.L.	4	0	88	22.0	77	0
Lott, Thomas, St.L.	4	3	33	8.3	13	0
Callicutt, Ken, Det.	4	4	25	6.3	13	0
Chandler, Wes, N.O.	3	3	13	4.3	8	0
Nord, Keith, Minn.	3	3	11	3.7	7	0
Woods, Bobby, Det.	2	0	12	6.0	9	0
Scales, Dwight, N.Y.G.	2	0	3	1.5	3	0
Harmon, Clarence, Wash.	1	0	10	10.0	10	0
Reece, Beasley, N.Y.G.	1	0	8	8.0	8	0
Bryant, Bobby, Minn.	1	2	7	7.0	7	0
Davis, Tony, T.B.	1	1	7	7.0	6	0
Leonard, Tony, Det.	1	0	7	7.0	7	0
Jackson, Terry, N.Y.G.	1	1	5	5.0	5	0
Pesuit, Wally, Det.	1	0	5	5.0	5	0
McClain, Dewey, Atl.	1	0	2	2.0	2	0
Blackmore, Richard, Phil.	1	1	0	0.0	0	0
Hill, Drew, L.A.	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Peters, Tony, Wash.	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Turner, John, Minn.	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Allen, Nate, Minn.	1	0	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Glazebrook, Bob, Atl.	1	0	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Lewis, Eddie, Det.	1	0	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Justin, Sid, L.A.	1	0	-2	-2.0	-2	0
Baschnagel, Brian, Chi.	0	3	0	—	0	0

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4, Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)
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	No	Yds	Av	Lng	TD
Edwards, Jimmy, Minn.	44	1103	25.1	83	0
Green, Roy, St.L.	41	1005	24.5	1106	1
Owens, James, S.F.	41	1002	24.4	185	1
Henry, Wally, Phil.	28	668	23.9	53	0
Arnold, John, Det.	23	539	23.4	69	0
Harrell, Willard, St.L.	22	497	22.6	53	0



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Walterscheid, Len, Chi.	19	427	22.5	44	0
Mauli, Rick, N.O.	36	801	22.3	39	0
Hammond, Bobby, N.Y.G.-Wash.	25	544	21.8	39	0
Odum, Steve, G.B.-N.Y.G.	44	949	21.6	75	0
Hardeman, Buddy, Wash.	19	404	21.3	33	0
Springs, Ron, Dall.	38	780	20.5	70	0
Hill, Drew, L.A.	40	803	20.1	39	0
Ragsdale, George, T.B.	34	675	19.9	30	0
Pearson, Dennis, Atl.	30	570	19.0	29	0
Wilson, Steve, Dall.	19	328	17.3	26	0
Callicutt, Ken, Det.	24	406	16.9	31	0
(Non-Qualifiers)					
Thompson, Aundra, G.B.	15	346	23.1	1100	1
Strong, Ray, Atl.	15	343	22.9	33	0
Hill, Eddie, L.A.	15	305	20.3	43	0
Giammona, Louie, Phil.	15	294	19.6	31	0
Watts, Rickey, Chi.	14	289	20.6	183	1
Kane, Rick, Det.	13	281	21.6	37	0
Baschnagel, Brian, Chi.	12	260	21.7	32	0
McCoy, Mike, G.B.	11	248	22.5	41	0
Wilson, Wayne, N.O.	11	230	20.9	31	0
Hagins, Isaac, T.B.	9	196	21.8	31	0
Elliott, Lenvil, S.F.	9	170	18.9	33	0
Pridemore, Tom, Atl.	9	111	12.3	21	0
Forte, Ike, Wash.	8	211	26.4	38	0
Brown, Ted, Minn.	8	186	23.3	43	0
Hofer, Paul, S.F.	8	124	15.5	23	0
Holmes, Jack, N.O.	8	120	15.0	20	0
Campfield, Billy, Phil.	7	251	35.9	192	1
Cain, Lynn, Atl.	7	149	21.3	32	0
Manning, Wade, Dall.	7	145	20.7	47	0
Robinson, Jimmy, N.Y.G.	7	140	20.0	30	0
Chandler, Wes, N.O.	7	136	19.4	37	0
Francis, Phil, S.F.	7	103	14.7	23	0
Thompson, Leonard, Det.	6	151	25.2	26	0
Taylor, Billy, N.Y.G.	6	131	21.8	31	0
Stanback, Haskell, Atl.	6	109	18.2	24	0
Reece, Beasley, N.Y.G.	6	81	13.5	21	0
Harris, Don, Wash.	6	80	13.3	23	0
Ferrell, Bob, S.F.	6	78	13.0	18	0
Brown, Eddie, L.A.	5	103	20.6	28	0
Harmon, Clarence, Wash.	5	63	12.6	19	0
Perrin, Lonnie, Wash.-Chi.	4	86	21.5	29	0
Sampson, Howard, G.B.	4	61	15.3	21	0
Mayberry, James, Atl.	4	49	12.3	16	0
Davis, Tony, T.B.	4	33	8.3	16	0
Leonard, Tony, Det.	3	70	23.3	28	0
Barefield, John, St.L.	3	62	20.7	23	0
McClanahan, Brent, Minn.	3	53	17.7	20	0
Hicks, Eddie, N.Y.G.	3	51	17.0	21	0
Peacock, Elvis, L.A.	3	46	15.3	18	0
Miller, Robert, Minn.	3	38	12.7	19	0
Schubert, Steve, Chi.	2	45	22.5	27	0
Kotar, Doug, N.Y.G.	2	39	19.5	23	0
Hicks, Dwight, S.F.	2	36	18.0	19	0
King, Horace, Det.	2	36	18.0	20	0
Nafzinger, Dana, T.B.	2	36	18.0	19	0
Woods, Bobby, Det.	2	34	17.0	17	0
Brinson, Larry, Dall.	2	23	11.5	17	0
Jodat, Jim, L.A.	2	19	9.5	19	0
Fantelli, Ken, Det.	2	18	9.0	17	0
Allerman, Kurt, St.L.	2	16	8.0	10	0
Williams, Brooks, N.O.	2	12	6.0	12	0
Wilson, Brenard, Phil.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Hill, Tony, Dall.	1	32	32.0	32	0
Blue, Luther, Det.	1	26	26.0	26	0
Barnes, Larry, Phil.	1	23	23.0	23	0
Bruer, Bob, S.F.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Jackson, Alfred, Atl.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Byas, Rick, Atl.	1	19	19.0	19	0
Lott, Thomas, St.L.	1	19	19.0	19	0
Latimer, Al, Phil.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Moorehead, Emery, N.Y.G.	1	16	16.0	16	0
Tyler, Wendell, L.A.	1	16	16.0	16	0
Marion, Frank, N.Y.G.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Reece, Danny, T.B.	1	13	13.0	13	0
Coffield, Randy, N.Y.G.	1	12	12.0	12	0
McClendon, Willie, Chi.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Favron, Calvin, St.L.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Kovach, Jim, N.O.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Owens, Tinker, N.O.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Wellman, Mike, G.B.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Huther, Bruce, Dall.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Latta, Greg, Chi.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Robinson, Bo, Det.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Wagner, Steve, G.B.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Berns, Rick, T.B.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Montgomery, Wilbert, Phil.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Barrett, Jean, S.F.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Smith, Charles, Phil.	1	1	1.0	1	0
Garlich, Chris, St.L.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Gay, Bill, Det.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Gray, Earnest, N.Y.G.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Herron, Bruce, Chi.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Lloyd, Dan, N.Y.G.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Steele, Robert, Minn.	1	0	0.0	0	0

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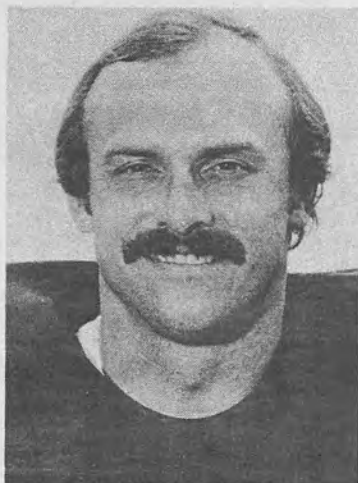
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